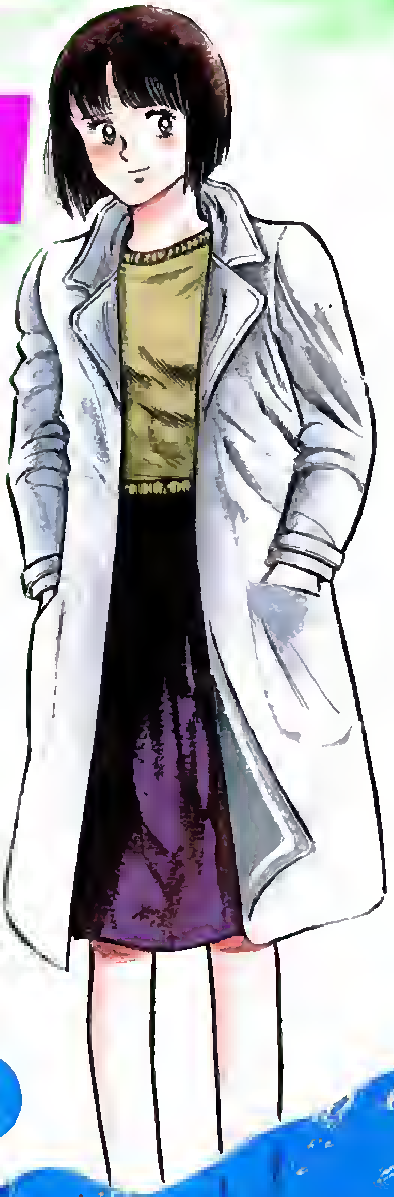
Vol.12

ROKUDA NOBORU

F

VOL.12

ROKUDA NOBORU



VOL.12

FOGGY LONDON

F

VOL.12

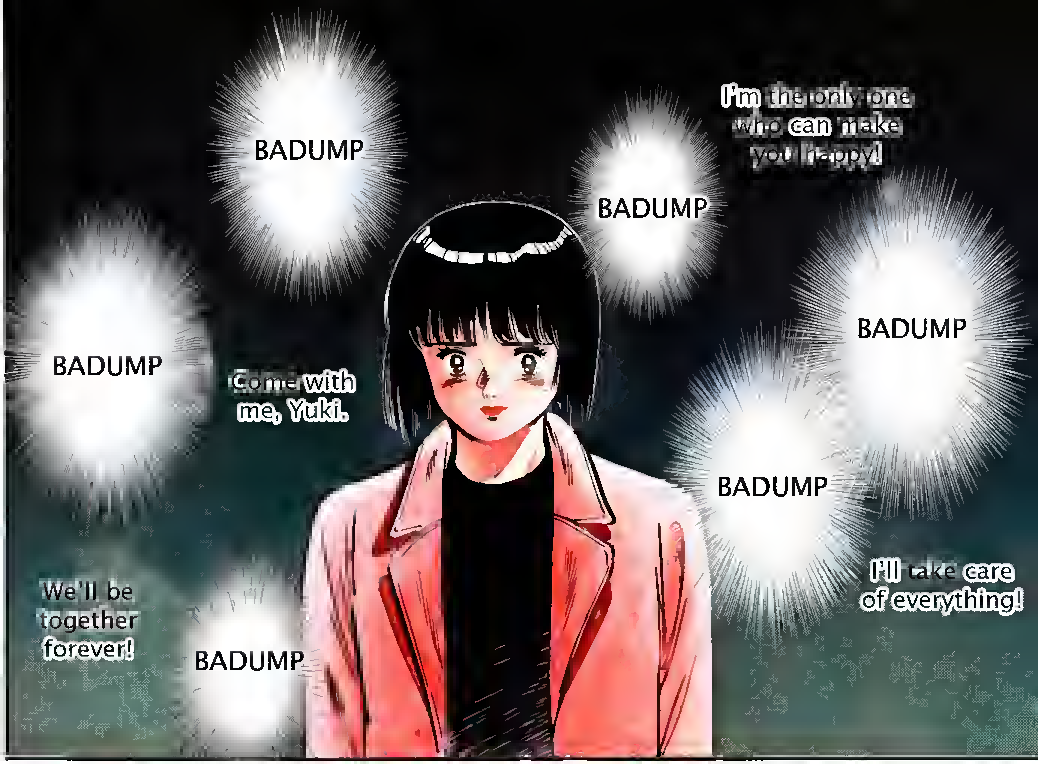
FOGGY LONDON

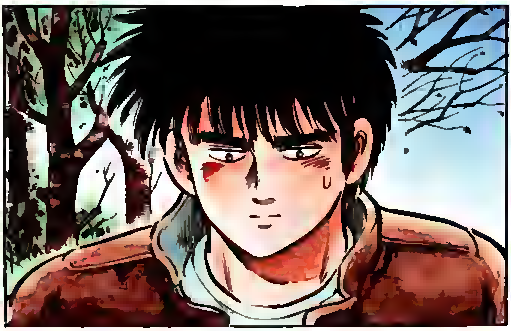
Chapter 1: Falling
Chapter 2: The Foolish Ones
Chapter 3: The Decision
Chapter 4: The Farewell Lunch
Chapter 5: Foggy London
Chapter 6: Rock Bottom
Chapter 7: Dancing Girl
Chapter 8: Starting Fresh
Chapter 9: Attachment
Chapter 10: The Fighter
Chapter 11: Full Throttle
Chapter 12: Signs of Summer

Chapter 1 :
Falling

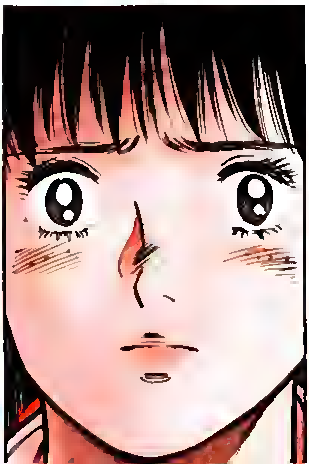
Marry me...
Okay, Gunma?
SWOOSH

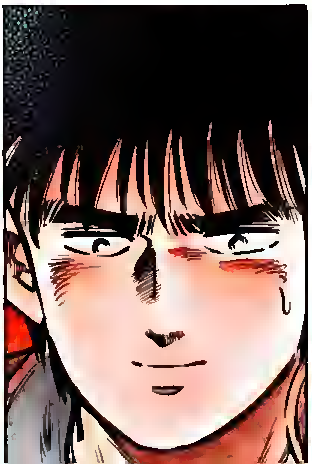
BADUMP
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
All right, Yuki. Let's get married.
He'll say yes. I just know he will.
BADUMP
BADUMP

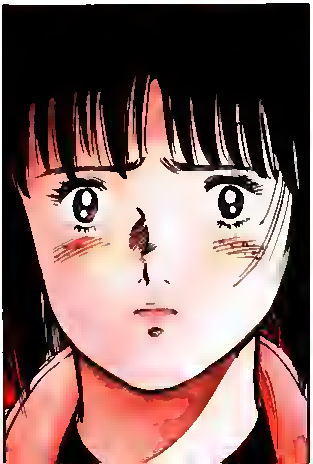

BADUMP
BADUMP
I'm the only one who can make you happy!
BADUMP
BADUMP
Come with me, Yuki.
BADUMP
We'll be together forever!
BADUMP
I'll take care of everything!

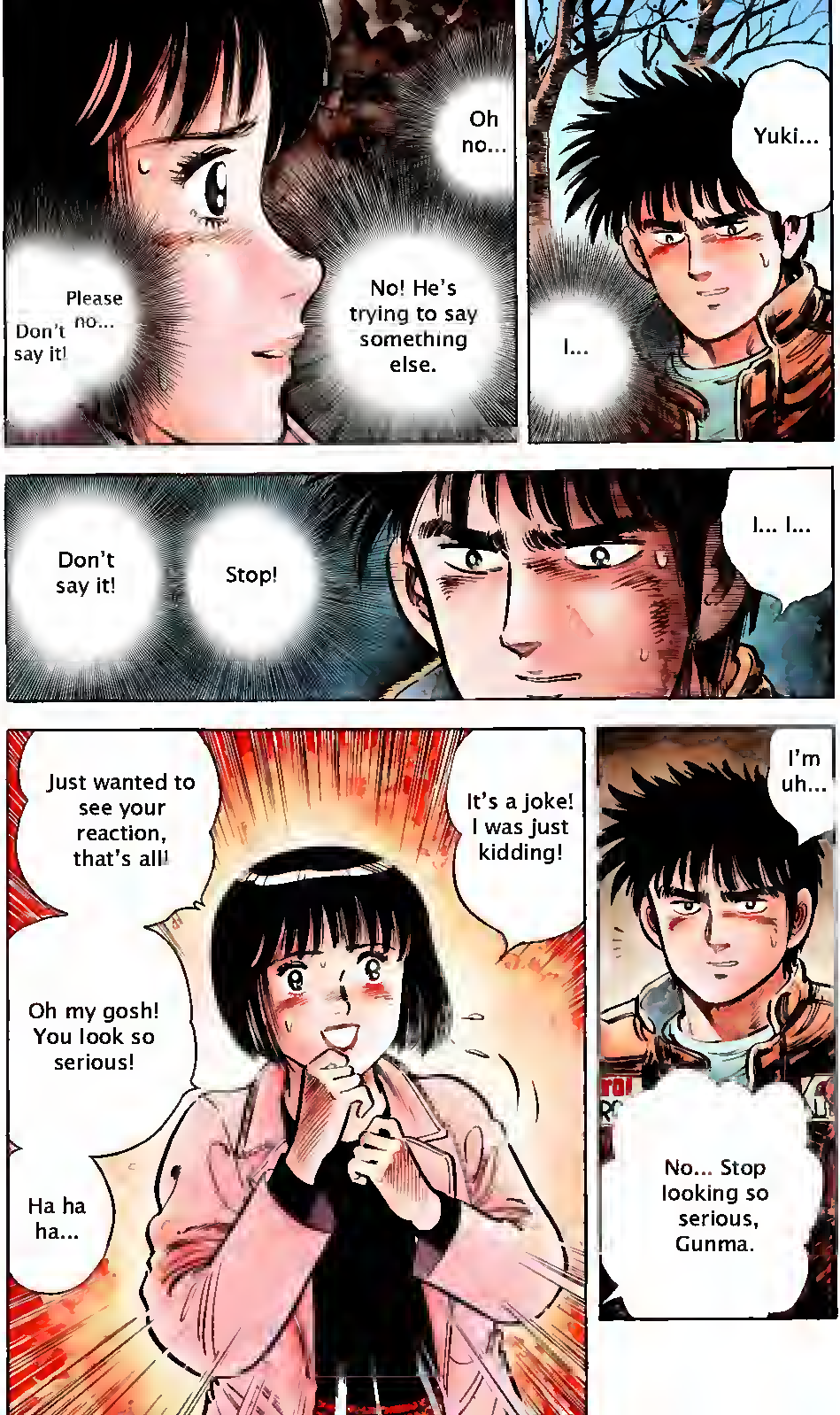


He will...

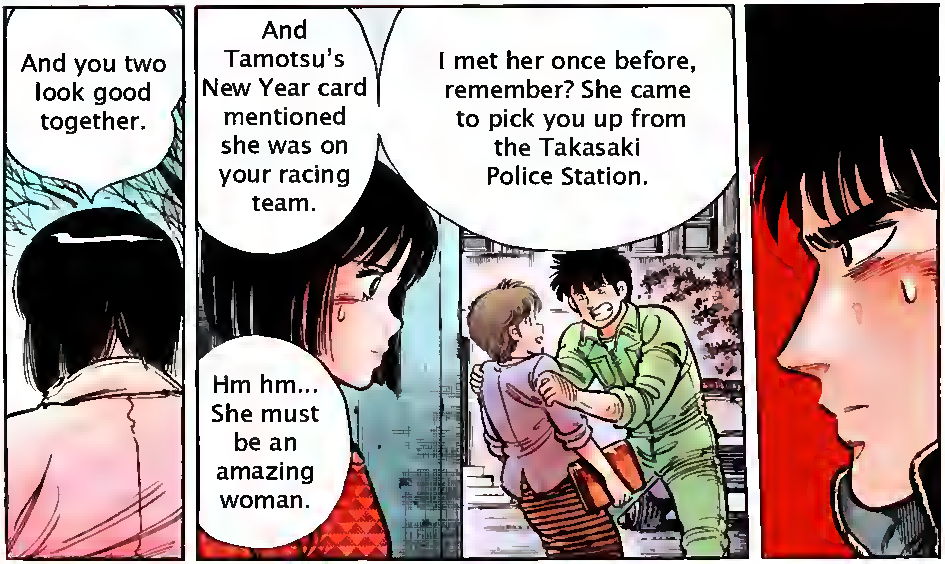


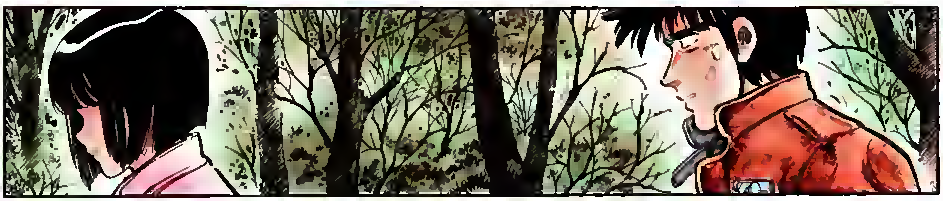


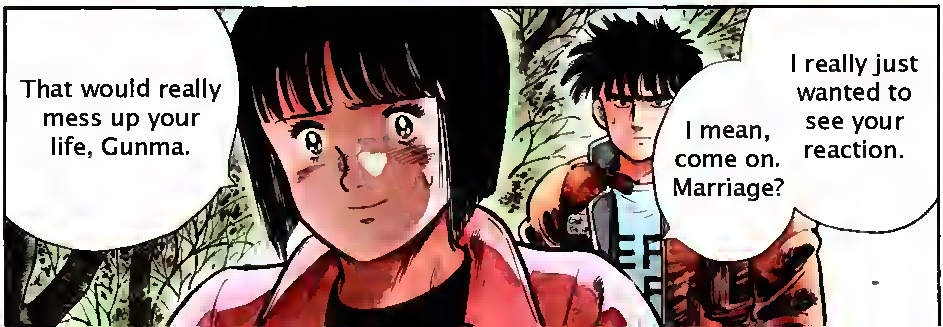



Oh no...
Please no...
Don't say it!
No! He's trying to say something else.
Yuki...
I...
Don't say it!
Stop!
I... I...
Just wanted to see your reaction, that's all!
It's a joke! I was just kidding!
Oh my gosh! You look so serious!
Ha ha ha...
I'm uh...
No... Stop looking so serious, Gunma.

...about Junko.
I already know...
Yuki, I...

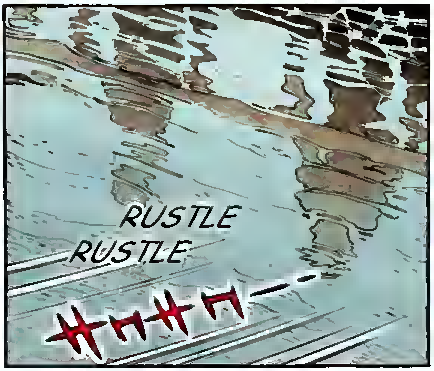

And you two look good together.
And Tamotsu's New Year card mentioned she was on your racing team.
I met her once before, remember? She came to pick you up from the Takasaki Police Station.
Hm hm... She must be an amazing woman.

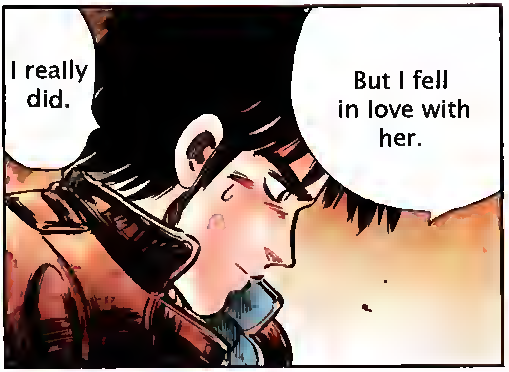



That would really mess up your life, Gunma.
I mean, come on. Marriage?
I really just wanted to see your reaction.

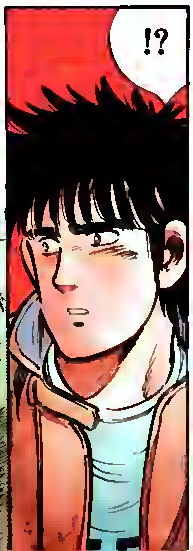
...between Junko and me.
There's nothin' going on...

I was a little jealous, that's all.


RUSTLE
RUSTLE

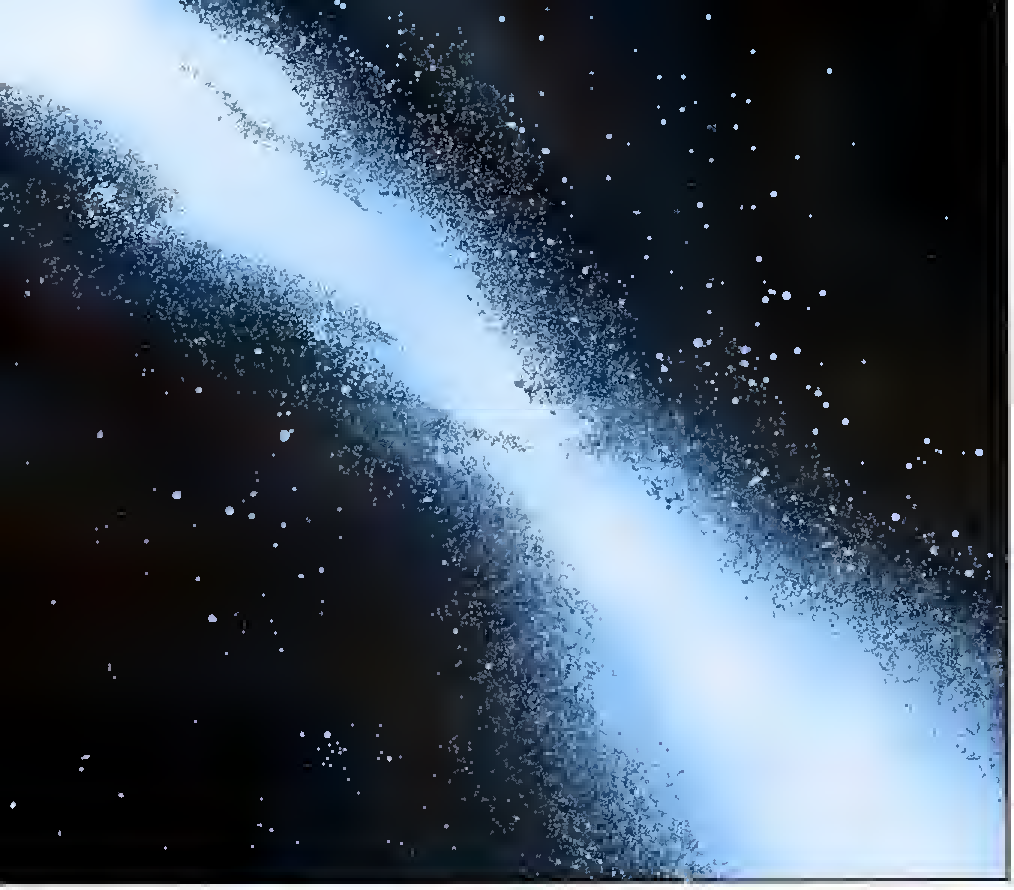

I really did.
But I fell in love with her.

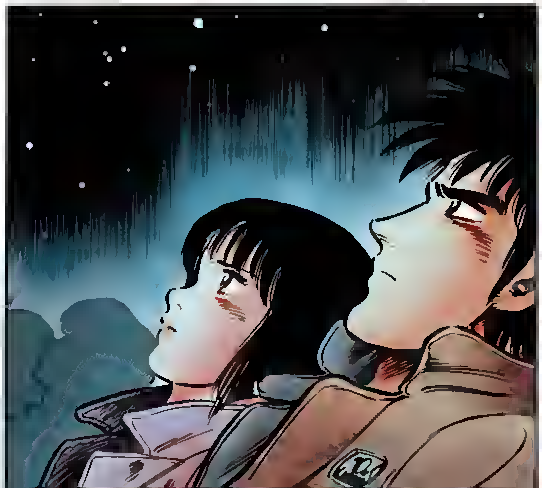
Let's go!
Okay?

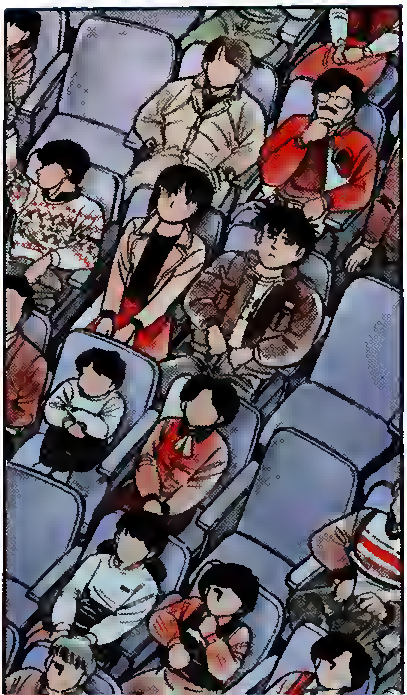

!?

Hey, why don't we go have some fun?

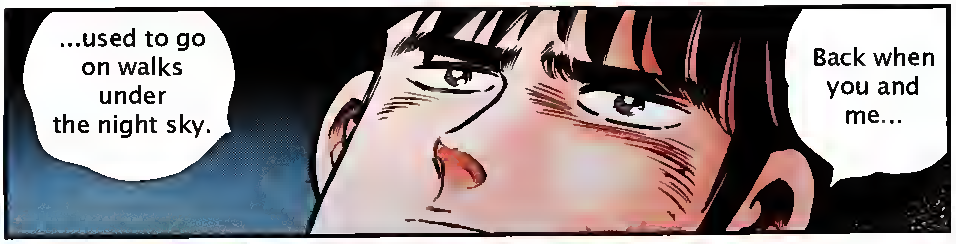
TAP
TAP
トン
トン
41
HAMBURGER
ハンバーガー
PLANETARIUM

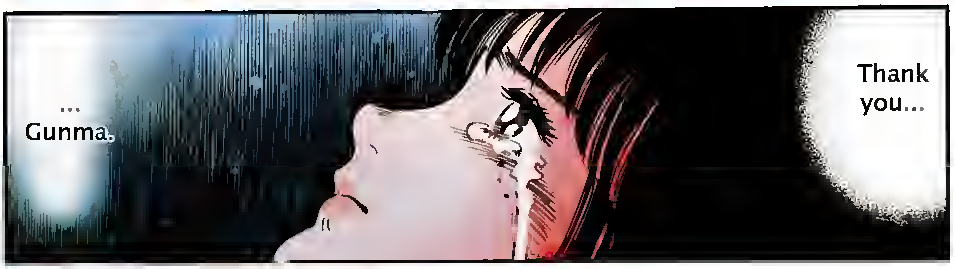






Reminds me of the sky back in Akagi Village.
Man, this planetarium is really something.


...used to go on walks under the night sky.
Back when you and me...

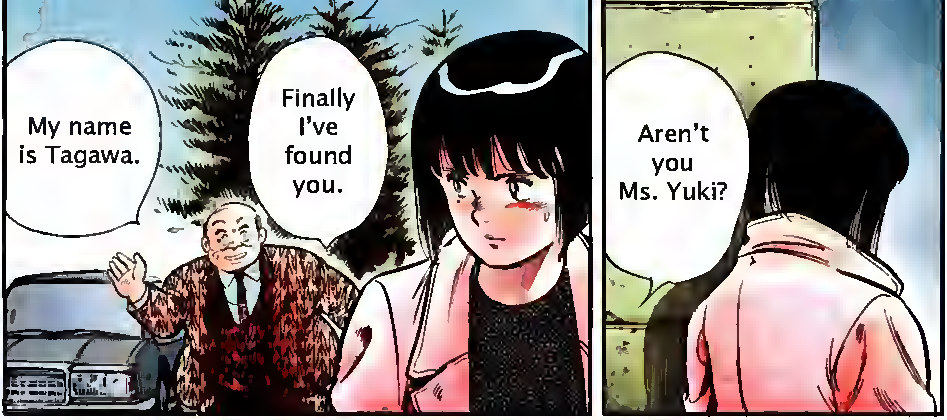

...
Gunma.
Thank you...

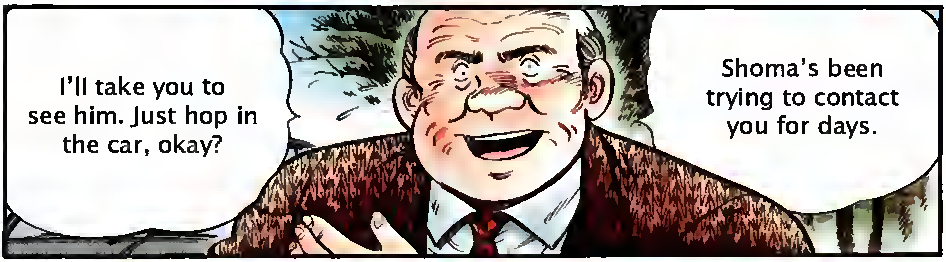
CLICK

Yuki?
!?
YAK
YAK
YAK
Well?
Dam mit.
Forgot to ask her where she lives, her phone number, everything.
Wow...
What happened to Yuki then?
I know it.
She'll come back, Gunma.
Couldn't find her anywhere.

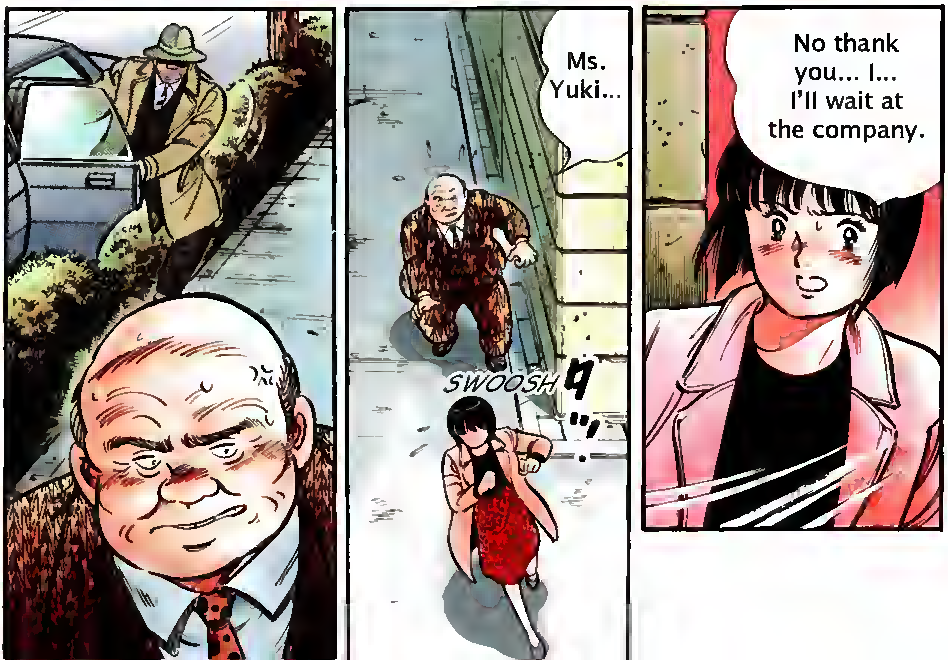
Okay? Please marry me!
...Gunma.
Marry me...
I was a little jealous...
I already know about Junko.
Wanted to see your reaction.
Just kidding.
Jealous...
May I ask who's calling?
It seems he had a sudden change in schedule.
President Akagi still hasn't returned.

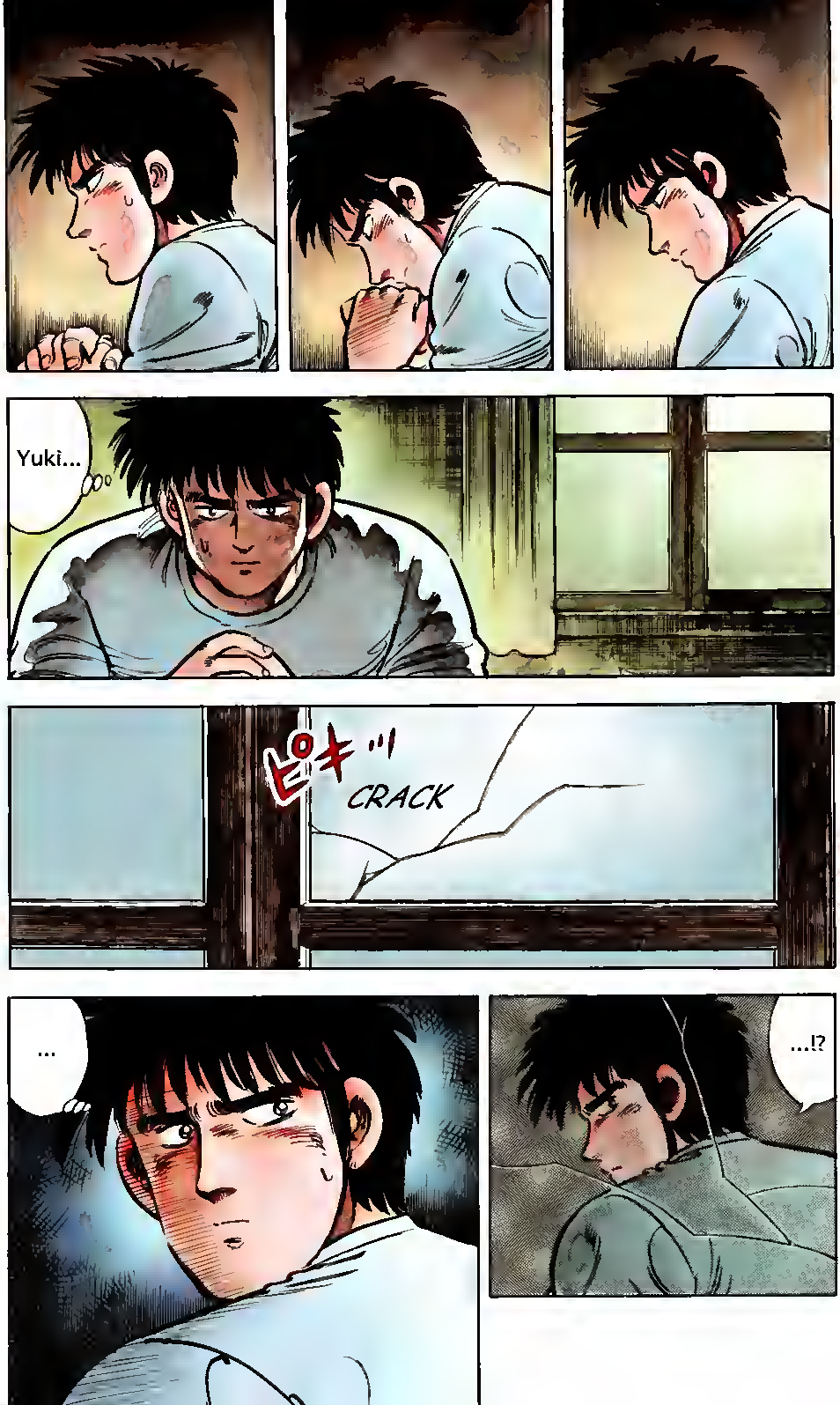
...
KACHUK
カチャ


My name is Tagawa.
Finally I've found you.
Aren't you Ms. Yuki?


I'll take you to see him. Just hop in the car, okay?
Shoma's been trying to contact you for days.

Shall we?
...


Ms. Yuki...
SWOOSH
No thank you... I... I'll wait at the company.


Yuki...
ピキ!!
CRACK
...
...!?

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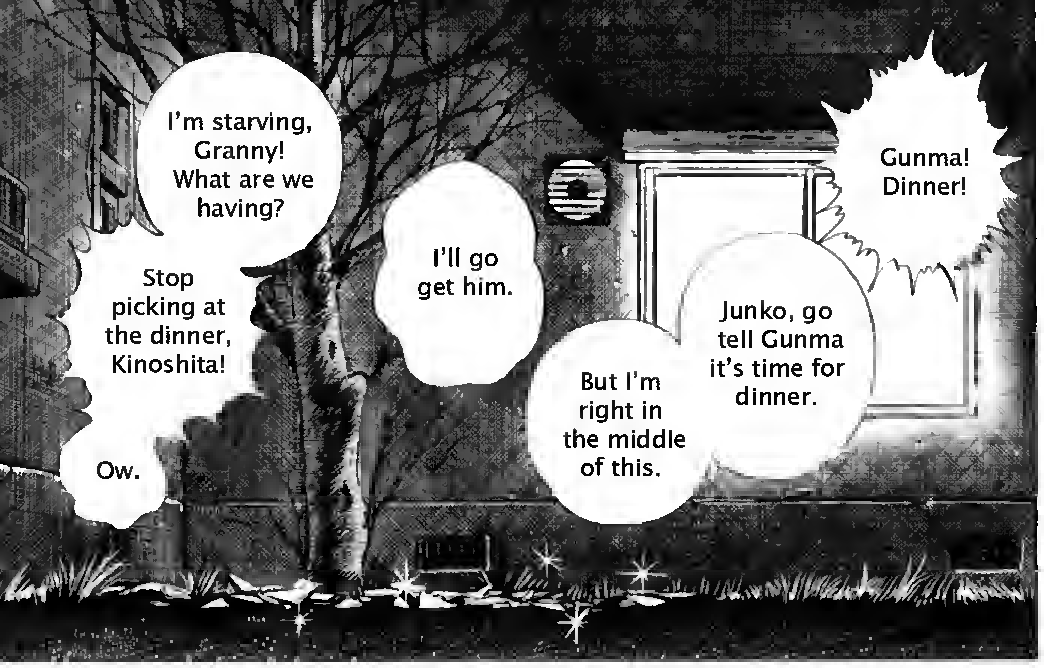
VOL.12

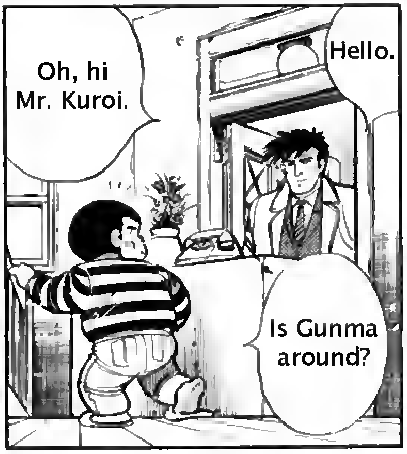
Chapter 2:
The Foolish Ones

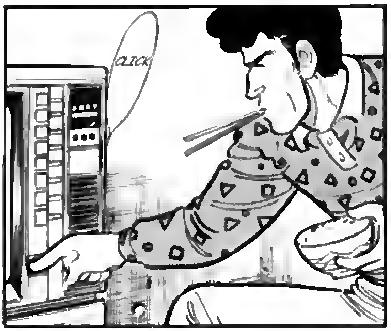
PIER BLANCA
ALWAYS A WINNER
...?
TAP
...?
SPREESH
PIK


I'm starving, Granny! What are we having?
Stop picking at the dinner, Kinoshita!
Ow.
I'll go get him.
But I'm right in the middle of this.
Junko, go tell Gunma it's time for dinner.
Gunma! Dinner!

Smells good.

I'm comin'.
Gunma, time to eat!

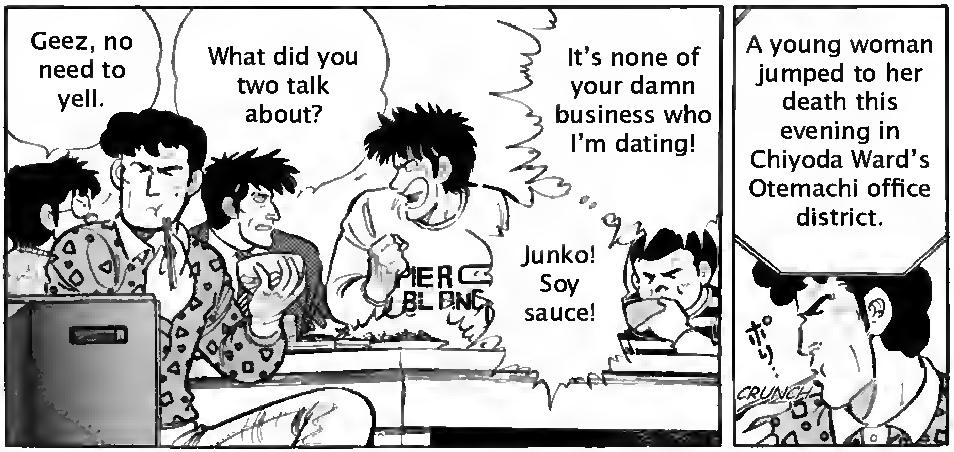

Oh, hi Mr. Kuroi.
Hello.
Is Gunma around?


CLICK

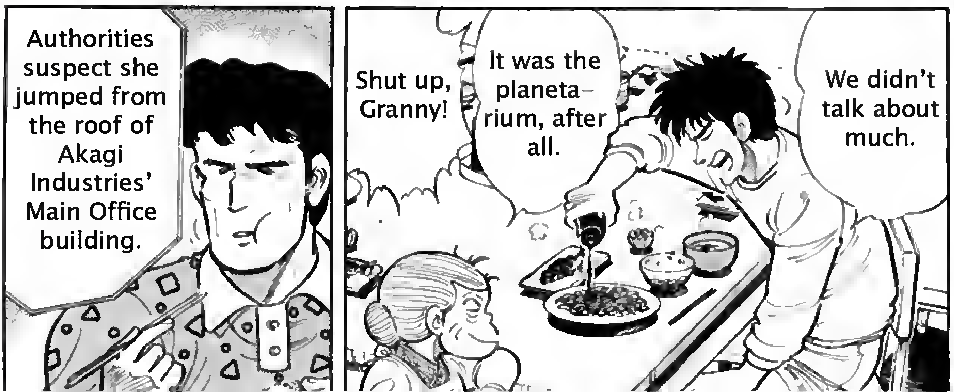
I'll take you up on that.
Why don't you join us, Kuroi?

And now for the 7 O'Clock News.
Sponsor problems?
Yeah ...
What!?
Yuki came by today.
3000?
So what's the plan for Gunma next season?
I made too much tonight, look at all this.
No, that won't be easy.
It's no big deal, Auntie.
Hmph!
What was he thinking, taking her to the planetarium?
I guess most sponsors won't go near Gunma.
Yup.
Did she meet with Gunma!?
Hey Granny, the window broke.
PIER BLANCA
Gunma went on a date!?
She hasn't been in contact with me.
Sure, to ME it's no big deal who Gunma's dating!

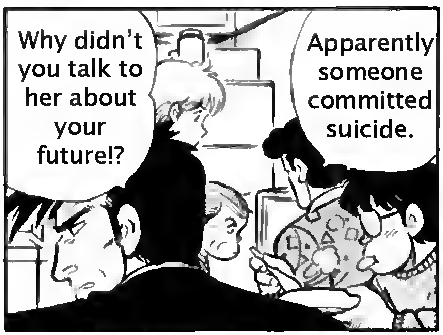
Who was the unlucky lady?
Shut up
So who'd you take on a date, Gunma!?
Want some more, Matsuura?
What's up, Kuroi?
I didn't do nothin'. It just split on its own this evening.
Heavens! Why did you do that!?
BLANCA

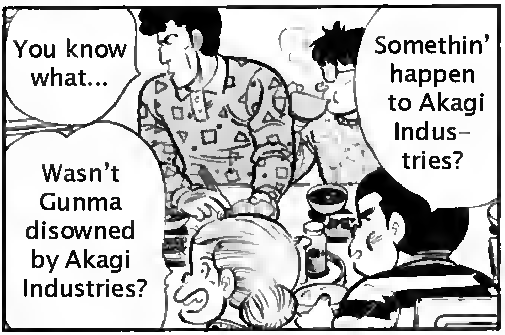

Geez, no need to yell.
What did you two talk about?
It's none of your damn business who I'm dating!
Junko! Soy sauce!
A young woman jumped to her death this evening in Chiyoda Ward's Otemachi office district.
CRUNCH

WOO WOO
WOO WOO

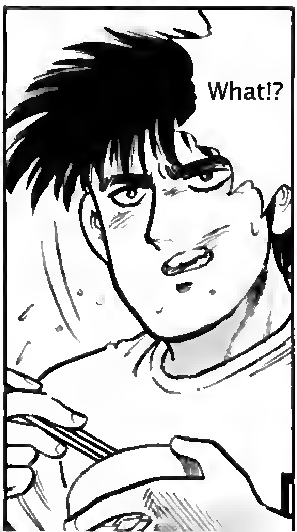

Authorities suspect she jumped from the roof of Akagi Industries' Main Office building.
Shut up, Granny!
It was the planeta-rium, after all.
We didn't talk about much.

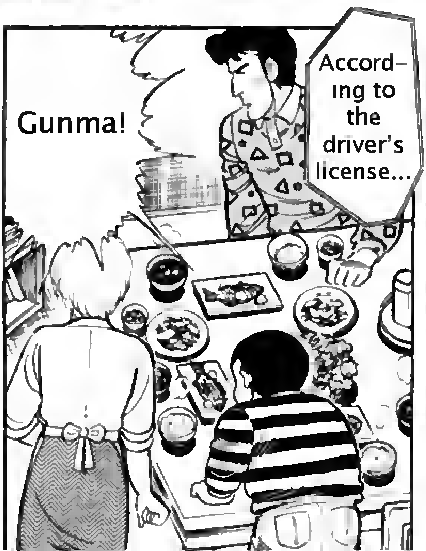
According to police, the evidence strongly suggests a suicide, and they are still in search of a motive.
A hastily-written suicide note was found on the roof she jumped from.
Akagi Industries...


Why didn't you talk to her about your future!?
Apparently someone committed suicide.

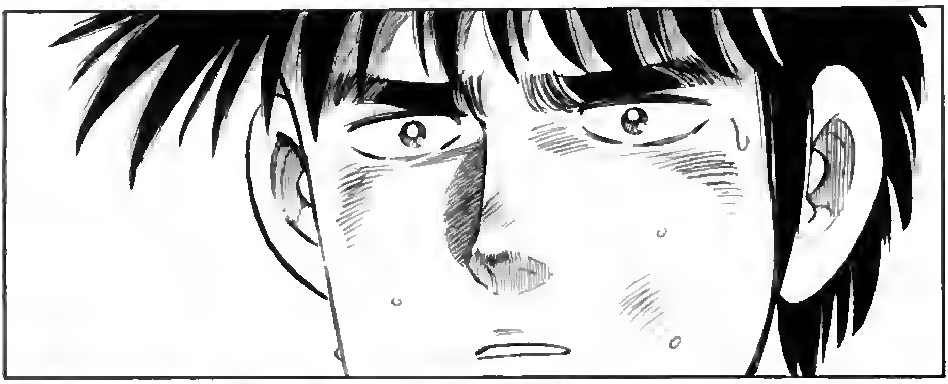

You know what...
Wasn't Gunma disowned by Akagi Industries?
Somethin' happen to Akagi Industries?

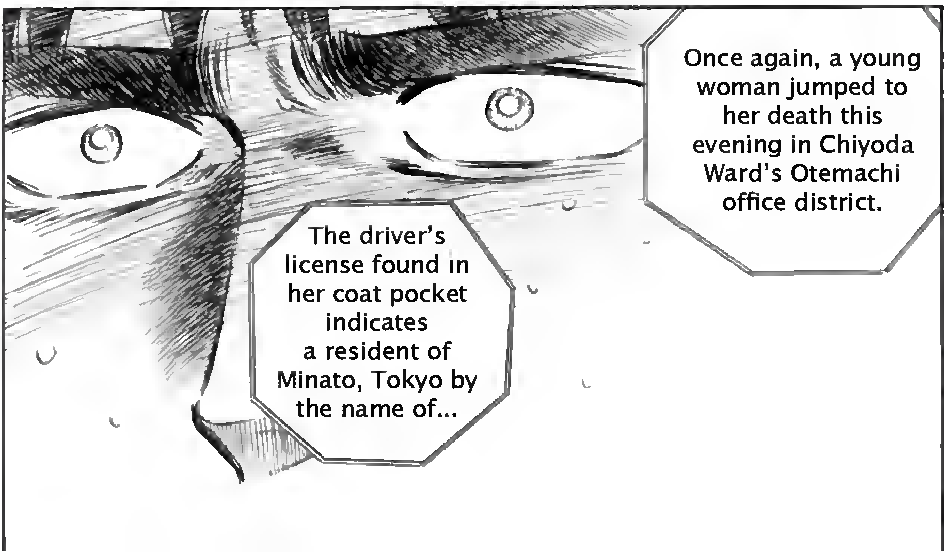
Although the young woman's identity has not yet been confirmed, a driver's license was found in her coat pocket...
I was about to, but she took off.

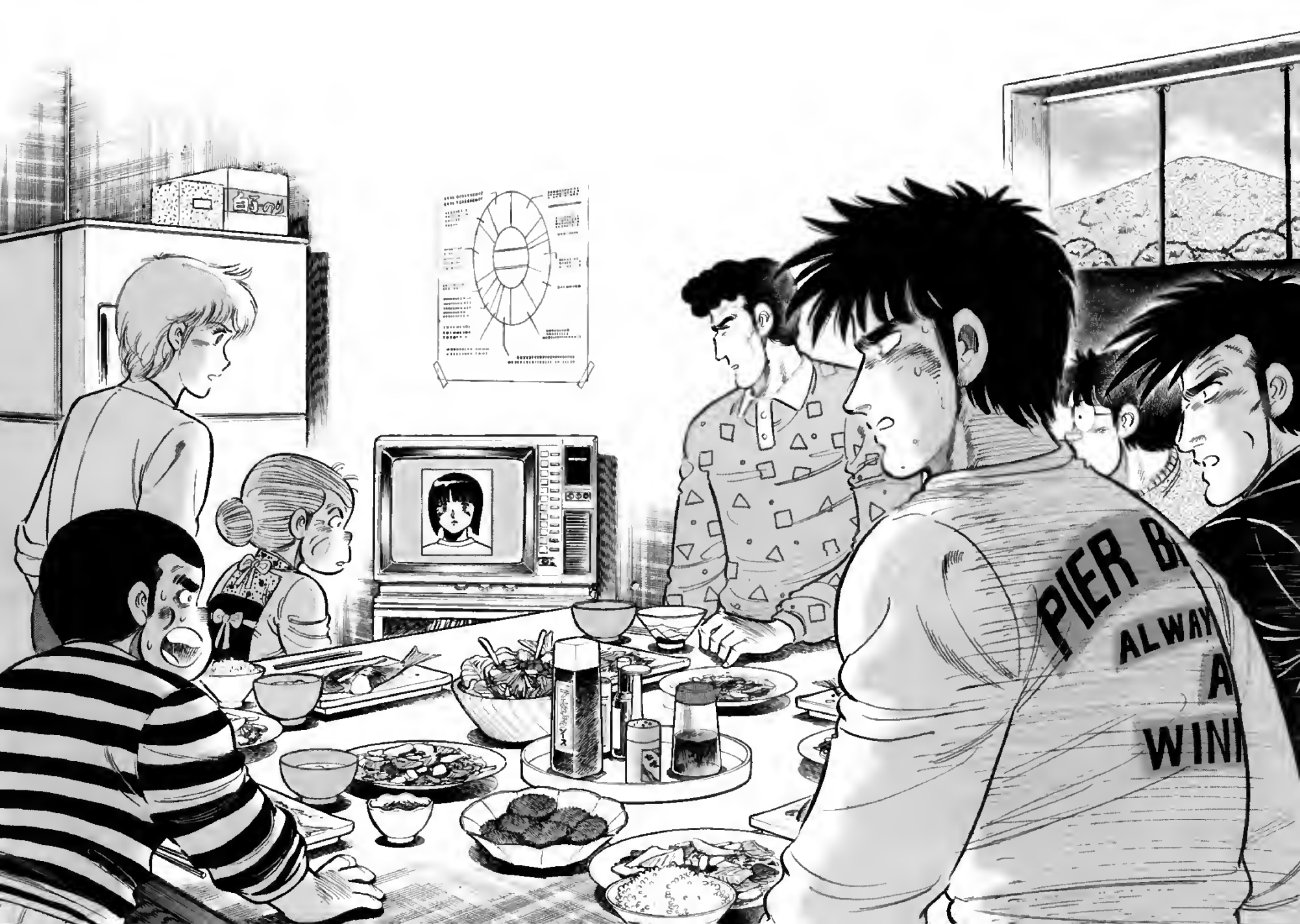

What!?


Gunma!
According to the driver's license...

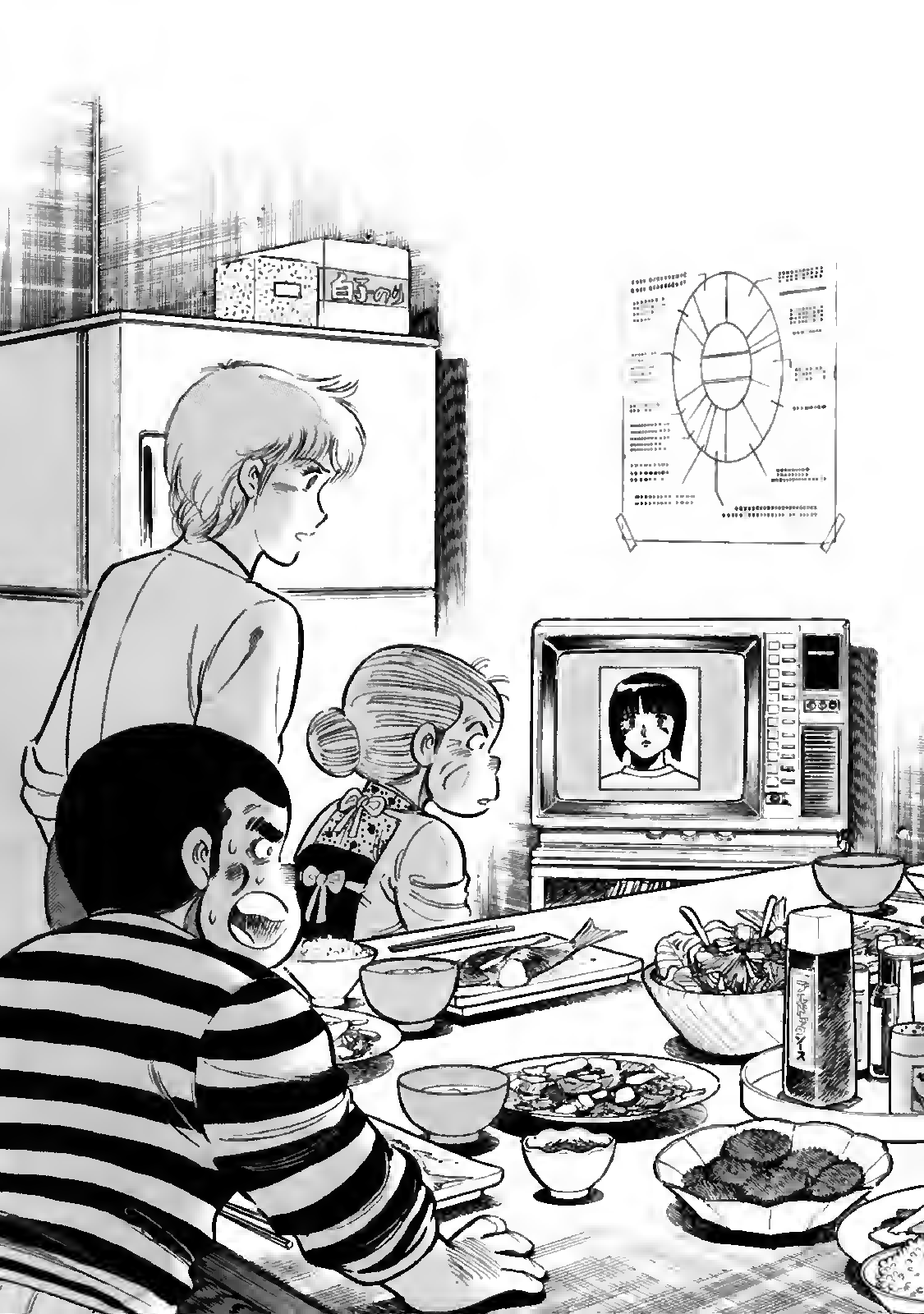
Gunma ...



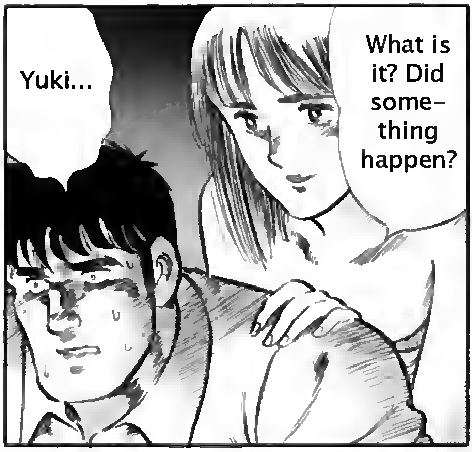

Once again, a young woman jumped to her death this evening in Chiyoda Ward's Otemachi office district.
The driver's license found in her coat pocket indicates a resident of Minato, Tokyo by the name of...


白ラのり
PIER B
ALWAY
A
WIN

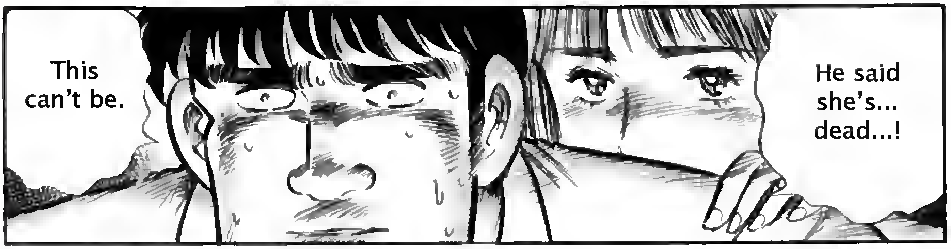
PIER B
ALWAY
A
WIN


白ぶのり

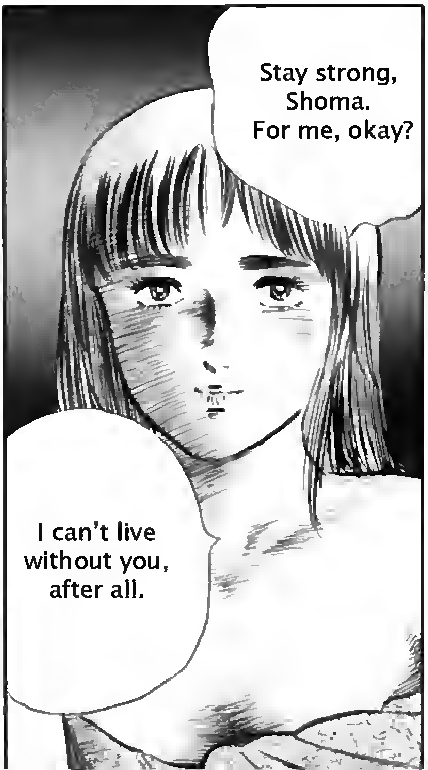
Where have you been, Shoma!? Something terrible has happened!
It's Yuki... She jumped from our building and killed herself!
Yuki...!
...?
Things are crazy here!
Just this evening! Don't you have a TV nearby? It's all over the news!
What's the matter?
Check the TV!
BZZT


Yuki...
What is it? Did some-thing happen?

Dammit, we missed the news hour...

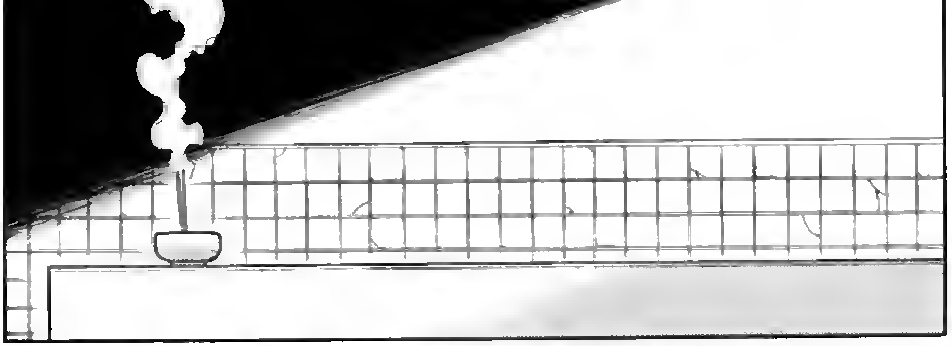

This can't be.
He said she's... dead...!

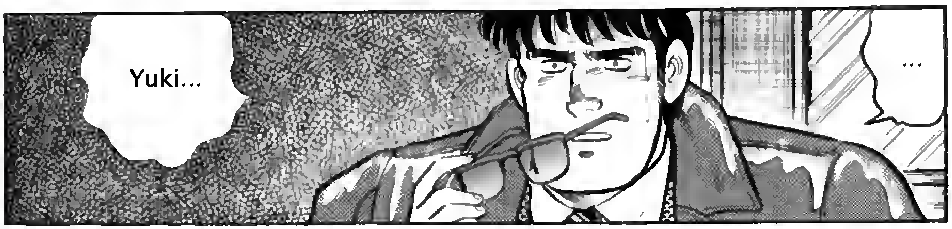
...

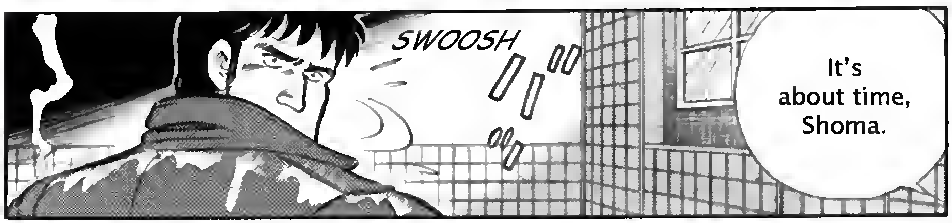

Stay strong, Shoma. For me, okay?
I can't live without you, after all.

I'm sorry, but I need to get back to Tokyo.
This is urgent.

SWOOSH
SLAM
SLAM




Yuki...
...


SWOOSH
It's about time, Shoma.

Gunma ...

もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH

ER
BLANCA

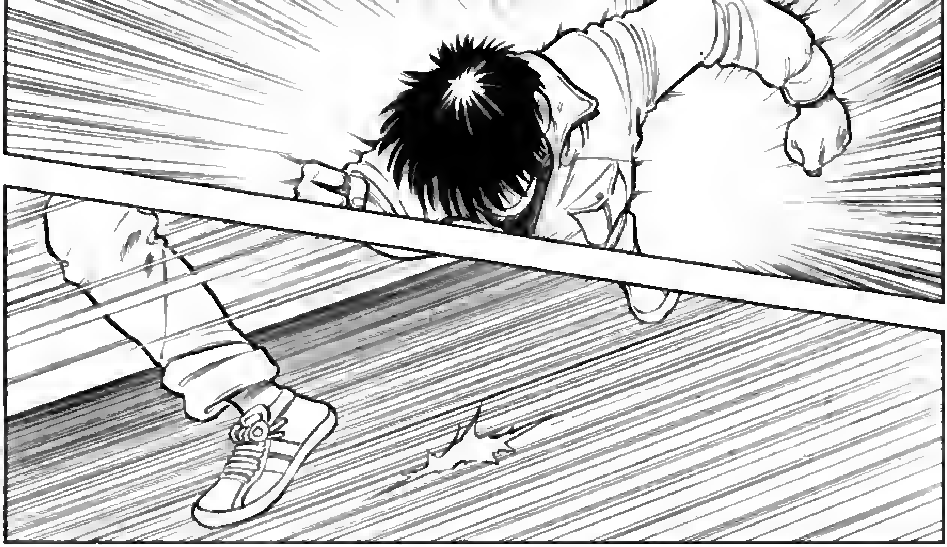
At least you came, I guess.
Don't you even care? It's been three days since she died.
I mean...
Geez, have you been here for three days?
Compli-cate things, huh...
She jumped from our building, after all.
What are you talking about? This has been rough for me.
This will compli-cate things.
She came to see me before she died.
...
Yuki...
...
As if I killed her myself.
It's as if I...

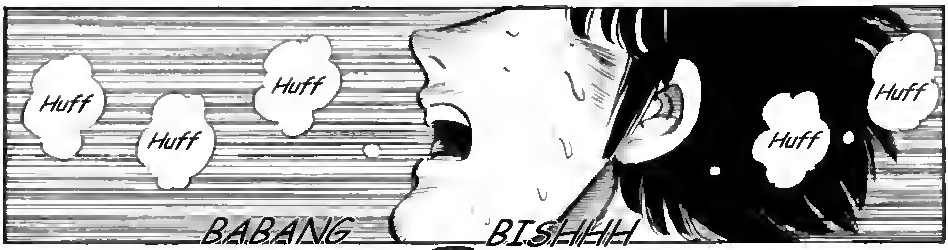
And I couldn't do nothing for her.
For a whole year... She sent me money, over 100 million yen.
Don't get arrogant. It was over between you two.
What are you talking about?
!!
So that's it.
Yuki's money is what kept me racing.
What did you just say?
Hold on.
Beat the livin' crap outta me!
Hit me, Shoma!
...went to this bastard!?
That money that was unaccounted for...

Hraaaaaah!
BAAAAM
RAAAAAAAH
How could she do this?
She used me to support this piece of trash!
Yu... ki...

Yukiiiiiii...
HERE LIES ALWAYS A WINNER
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff

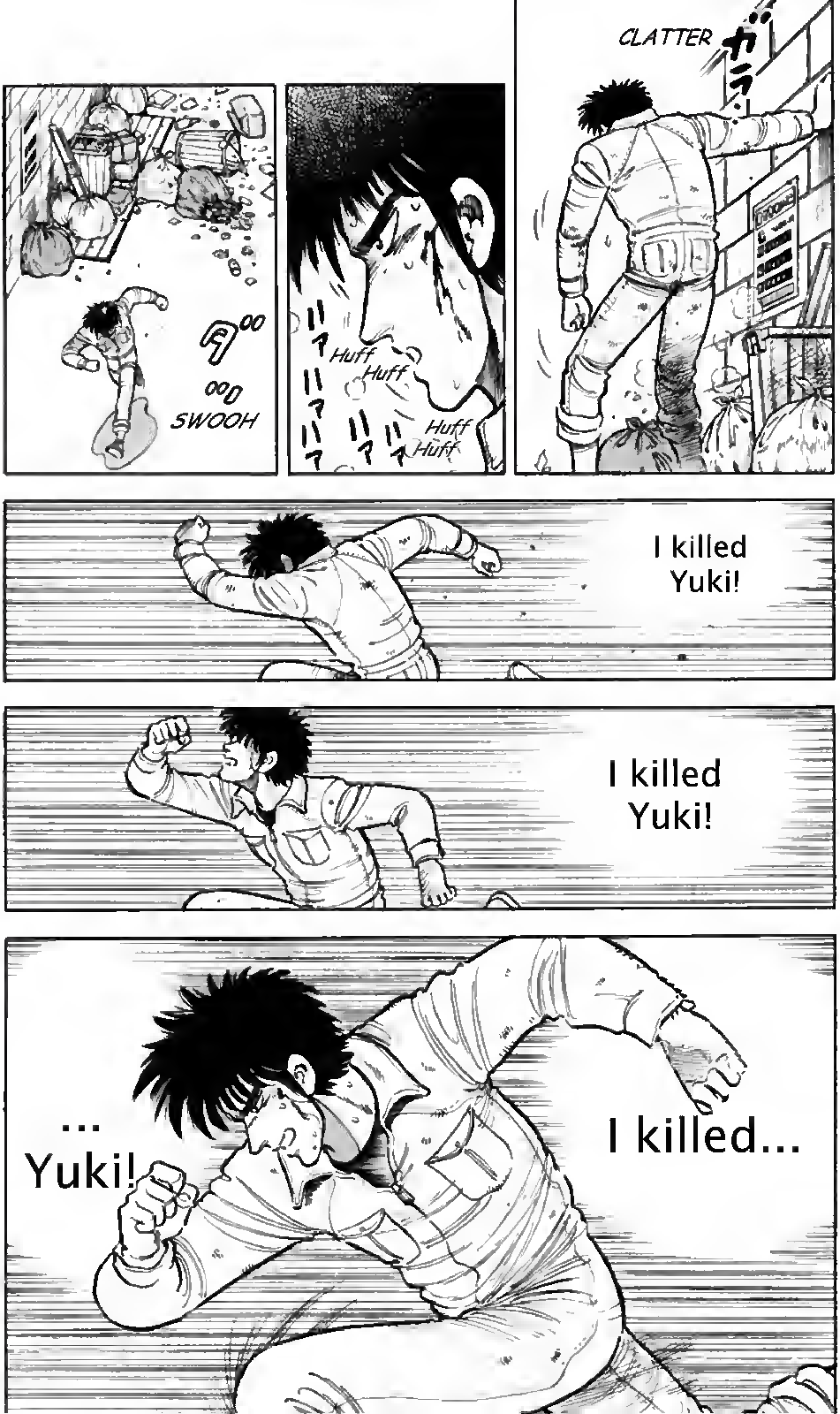
F
VOL.12



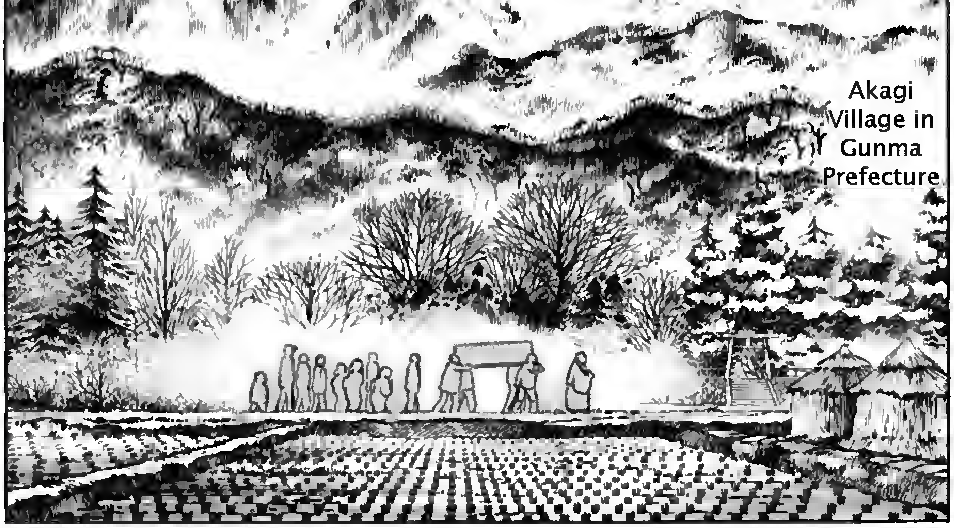

Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
BABANG
BISHHH

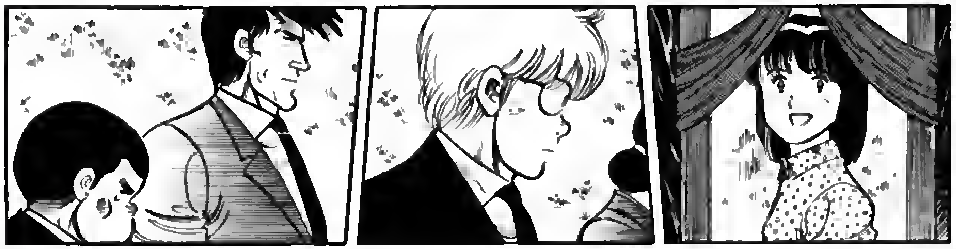
CLATTER
CLATTER
CRASH

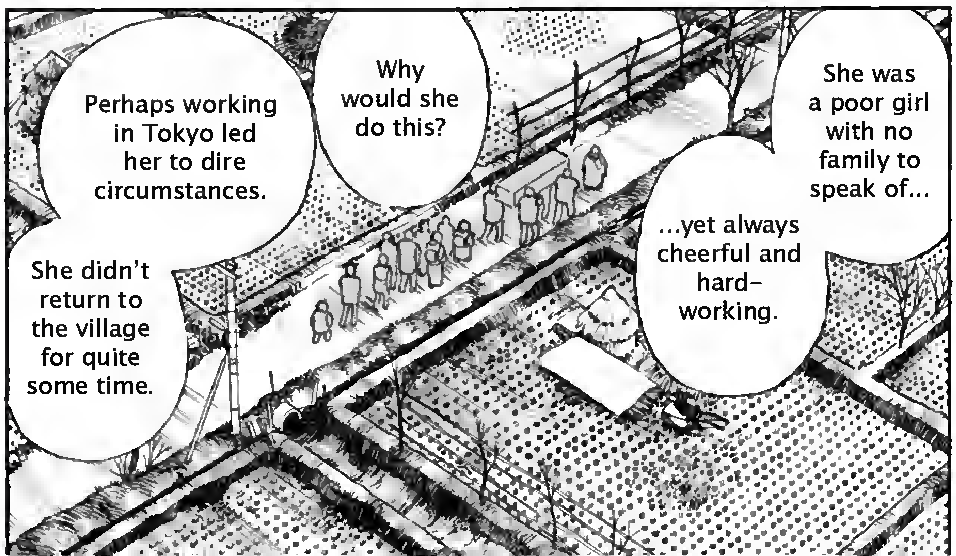
Chapter 3: The Decision


CLATTER
ガラ
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
SWOOH
I killed Yuki!
I killed Yuki!
... Yuki!
I killed...

Raaaaaaah!!!
Ahhg...


Akagi Village in Gunma Prefecture



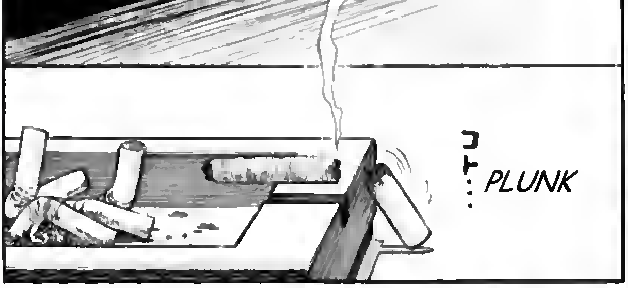

Perhaps working in Tokyo led her to dire circumstances.
Why would she do this?
She was a poor girl with no family to speak of...
...yet always cheerful and hard-working.
She didn't return to the village for quite some time.

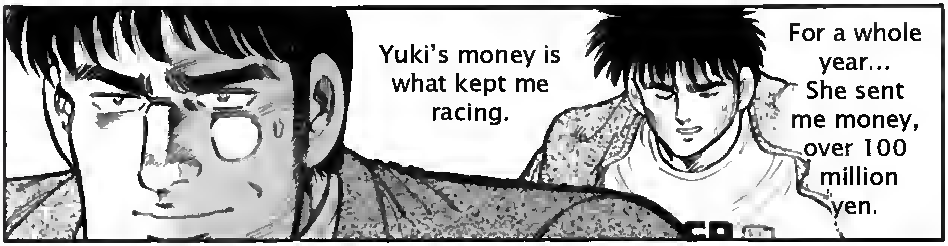
Where's Yuki gonna be buried?
Don't worry, she'll be in our plot.
Oh...
Where's Gunma?
Said he ain't coming.
He told them to bury her next to Gunma's mom.
Mr. Akagi said that?
Dad insisted.
...
Jumping from our Master's building in Tokyo... You'll be divinely punished for that!
You stupid girl!
As if you wanted to drag our Master's name through the mud.
How dare you kill yourself!

WHOOSH
Marry me, Gunma.
HUFF
はぁ
はぁ
はぁ
HUFF
HUFF
はぁ
HUFF
はぁ
HUFF
So then...
You were able to race because of me.
Okay?
...marry me.
Yuki...

I...
...killed her.
Yuki...
CRACK
I...
I got no right to race.
That's it.
HUFF
HUFF

CRASH
バシャーン
Ahhh...
SPLASH
None!
SPLASH
SPLASH


コト…
PLUNK

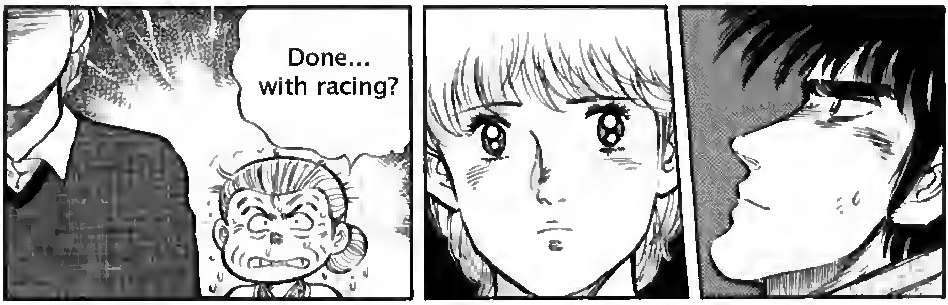

Yuki's money is what kept me racing.
For a whole year... She sent me money, over 100 million yen.

ゴクッ…
GULP

...how dare you...
Gunma ...

A swim!? In the middle of winter!?
Just went for a swim.
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
Dear lord, Gunma! You're soaked to the bone!
No need, Junko. I'm fine.
I'll get the bath ready.
Talk?
...!?
We need to talk.
I said I'm fine!
But you'll catch a cold.
...
... about what?
Talk ...
Stop it.
Here, dry off with this.

I'm done with racing.
Heh heh heh...


Done... with racing?

I'm tired.
I'm sick of it. Going round and round the same place like an idiot.
Besi-des...
And that's that!
Yup! I quit!
I can't waste my time in F3 no more.

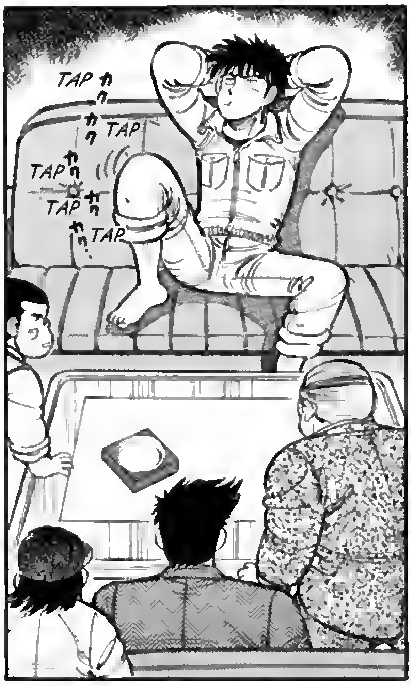
That's all.
But you...
You took good care of me, Granny.
CLATTER
ガタ…
And I'm leaving this apartment!
Do you really mean it?
Do you mean it?
Stop right there, Gunma!
A real man wouldn't give up so easily! And what about Junko!?
You... you idiot!
I won't let you do this!
You promised to tell her the secret behind Ryuji's passing!
I mean it.
Yeah.

Gun-
ma!
Gu...
As far as I'm con-
cerned, we never had that con-
versation.
Heh...
Sorry.
TURN
This is all because of what happened with Yuki.
This...
Gunma...
I love you.
Junko
...
And I had every intention of stealing you away from Ryuji.

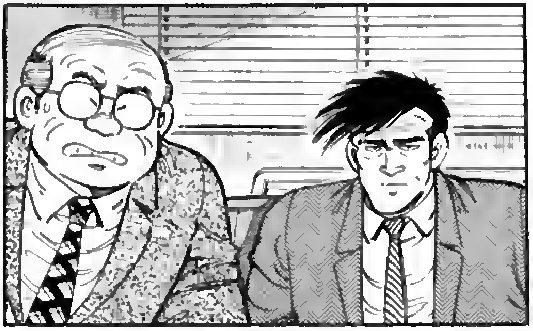
But now that Yuki's dead...
I don't feel no different, even now.

...are through.
You and me...

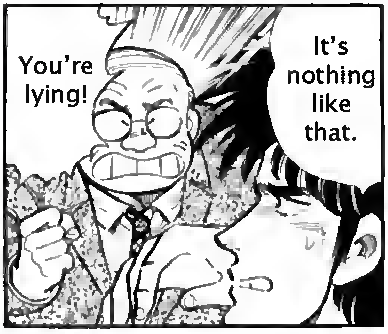
Chapter 4:
The Farewell Lunch


TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

Quit racing!? Are you out of your mind!?



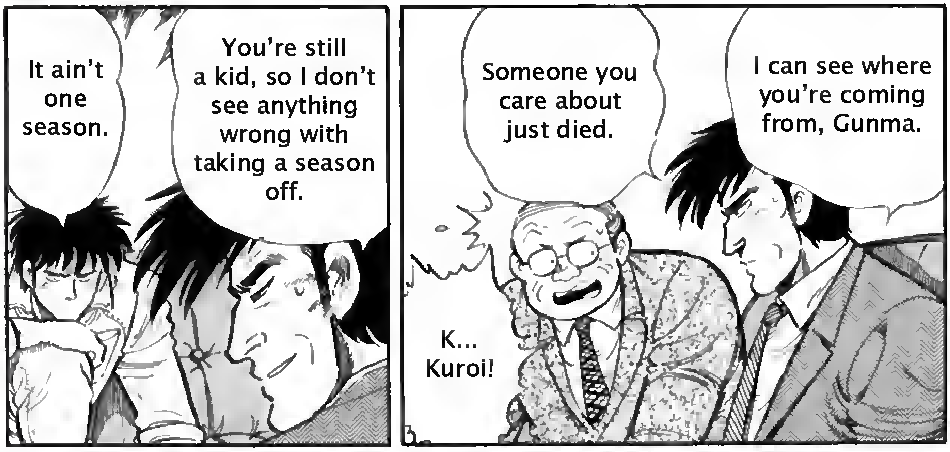
TSK TSK TSK
SLURP


You're lying!
It's nothing like that.

Spill it, Gunma! Did somebody offer you more money? Or tell you they can get you into F3000!?
You're going to a different team, aren't you!

What are you gonna do?
Gu...Gu nma...
I'm really done with racing, for good.
This is because of Yuki, ain't it!
I dunno. Maybe I'll drive a truck.
Nobody's offering me nothing.
...
SITARE
It ain't because of her.
Yuki sacrificed so much money so that you could be a top-class racer!
So it don't make no sense that you'd quit 'cause of her!
Then why!?
Yuki's ...
...got no-thing to do with it!

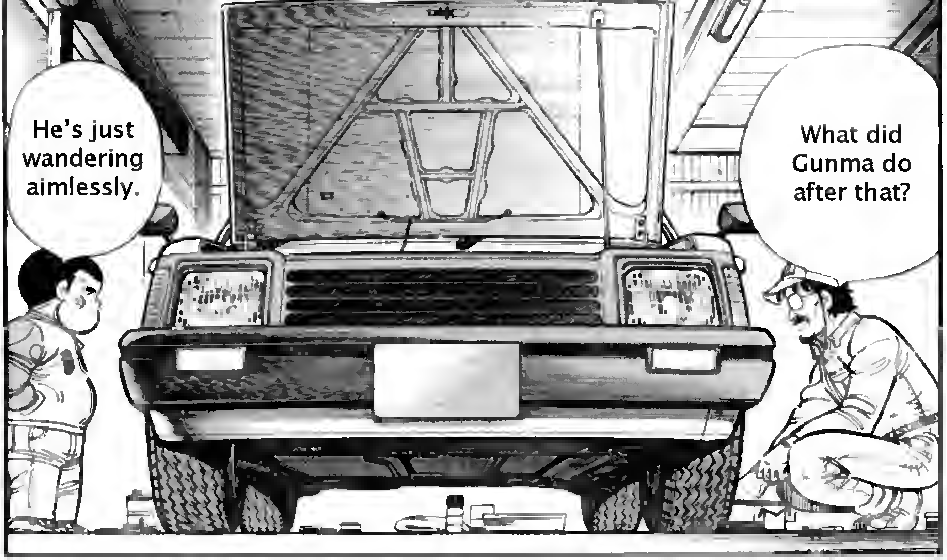
Heh... If it was only that simple.
What do you mean? She wanted you to race, and work your way to the top.
Marry me.
I wasn't able to do what she wanted.
And I hate myself for it.

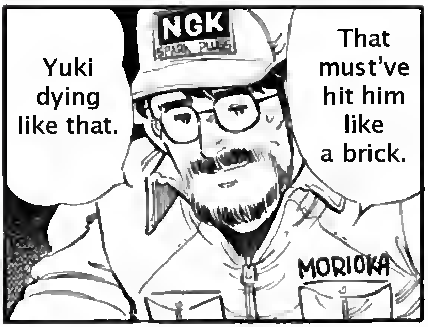

It ain't one season.
You're still a kid, so I don't see anything wrong with taking a season off.
Someone you care about just died.
I can see where you're coming from, Gunma.
K... Kuroi!

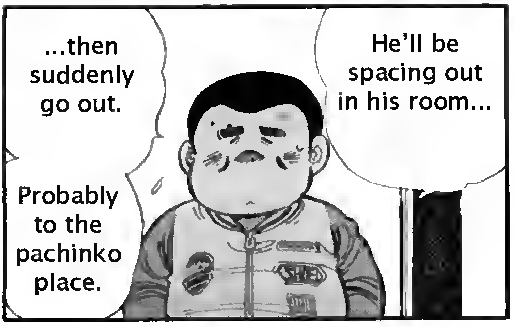
I'm done for good.

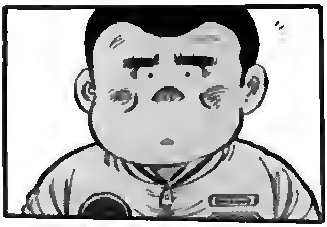
Racing is in your blood. You can't live without it.
No, you're not.

Like Tamotsu said, you owe it to Yuki to become an elite racer!
Never forget this, Gunma!
Anyway, I don't like it anymore. None of it.
No matter how long it takes!
And our team will be waiting for you!
SLUMP
SLAM


He's just wandering aimlessly.
What did Gunma do after that?


NGK
Yuki dying like that.
That must've hit him like a brick.
MORIOKA


...then suddenly go out.
Probably to the pachinko place.
He'll be spacing out in his room...

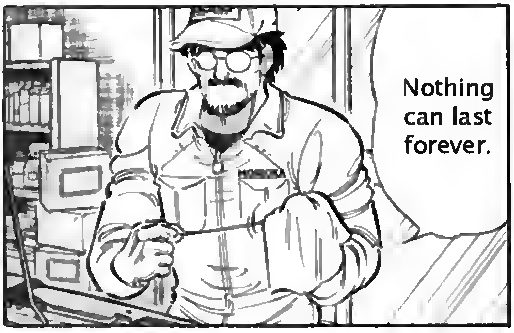


Shoot, it's been 10 years.
My wife passed away, you know.

Wow, I didn't know...

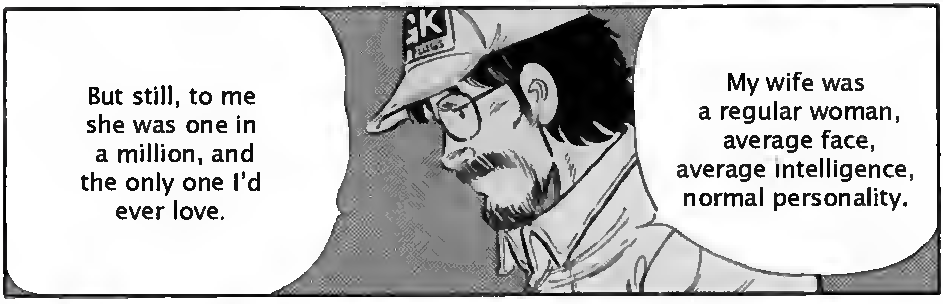
Started to think life wasn't worth living.
Right when I opened up this shop, and it hit me hard. I couldn't get anything done for a couple years.

We were laughing together at dinner, watching TV.
And just as we were about to turn in, she got this bad stomachache, so I took her to the doctor.
People are so fragile, they just up and die all too often.
I couldn't believe it. One minute we're laughing at dinner...
And that it was already advanced, so I should prepare for the worst.
They told me she had hepatitis.
I was in denial, as if the doctor made a mistake, so I just sat there at her bedside for hours, watching her sleep.
...and the next, just a week later, she was gone.
...
And say "good morning" with that sparkle in her eye.
I was sure she'd wake up and be fine.

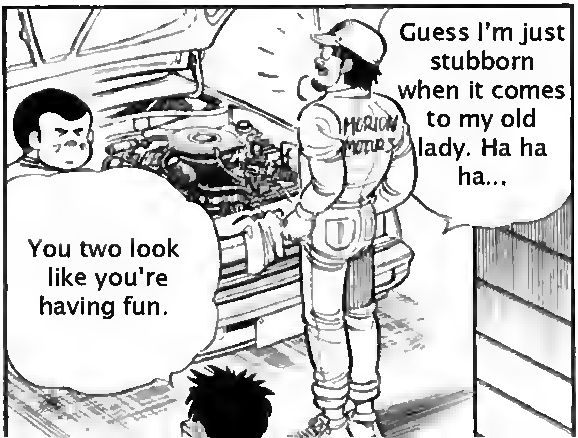

Nothing can last forever.

It's a pity, you know?
That it doesn't last forever.
Motors

Well, that's easier said than done.
Have you thought about getting married again?


But still, to me she was one in a million, and the only one I'd ever love.
My wife was a regular woman, average face, average intelligence, normal personality.

Whoa


You two look like you're having fun.
Guess I'm just stubborn when it comes to my old lady. Ha ha ha...

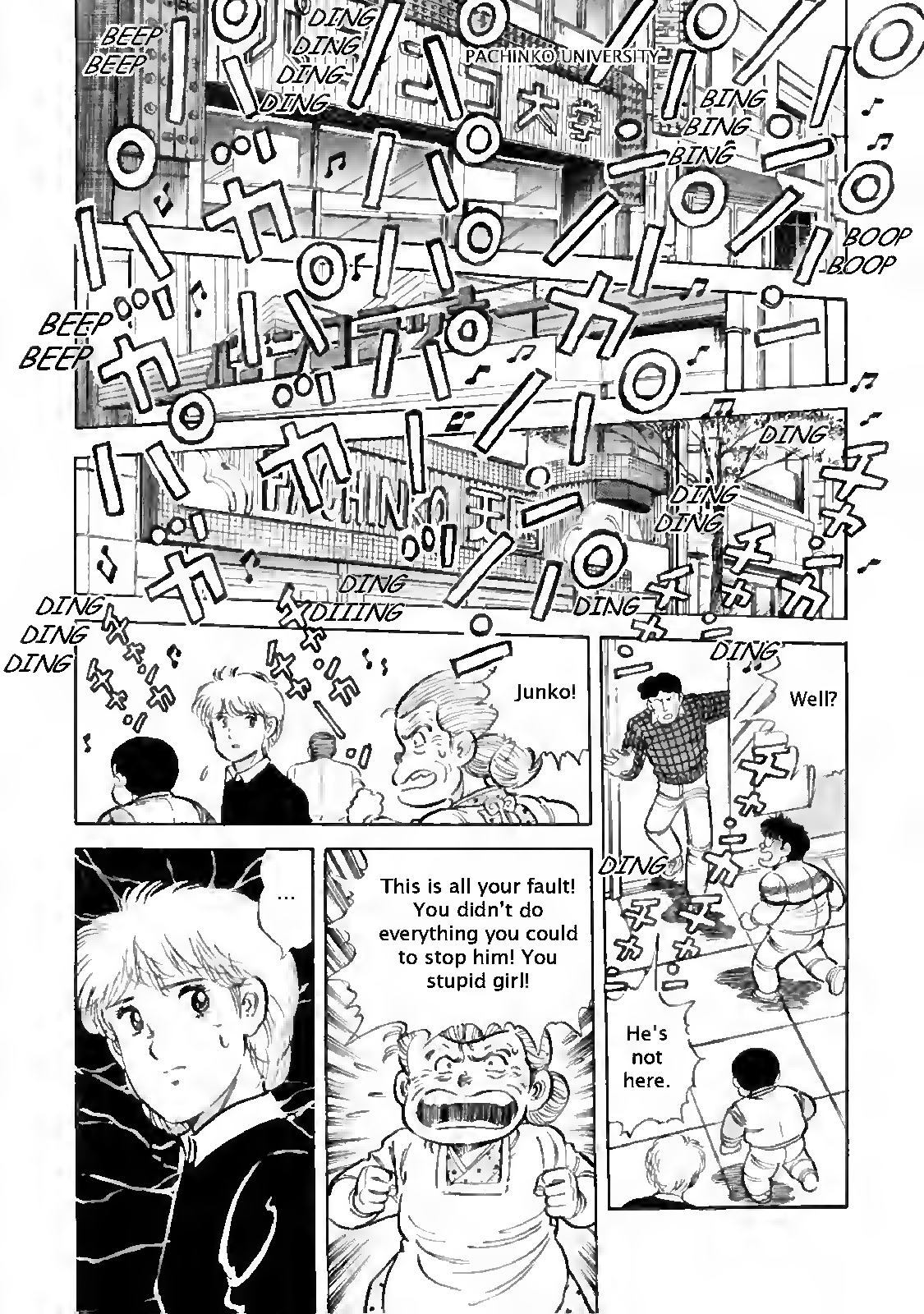
I couldn't buy lunch with the dirt poor wages I got from you.
Wait, you're treating us to lunch? Never thought I'd see the day.
But check this out, I got wine too! It's lunch time!
MORIOKA MOTORS
THUD
I won big at Pachinko University. Machine 48, right in front of the station!
I was on a roll!
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA
MORIOKA MOTORS
Spare me the lecture.
What about Tamotsu? He was with you every step of the way on this dream.
By the way, Gunma. I heard you're gonna quit racing.
I bet!
Whew, that's the best I've eaten in a long time.

I wouldn't say that.
You're at the heart of their success, dude!
Thanks to Tamotsu the boy genius mechanic here, they're gettin' hundreds of maintenance orders!
Besides, didn't you hear? Kuroi Racing is taking off!
Oh yeah, Ta-motsu!
Pachinko again?
カラ…
RATTLE
Anyway, time for me to burn off this meal with a hot game of pachinko.
Gunma …
How can you say that?
Gotta drop some steel balls!
I may have given up, but you can still do it! Get out there and make a name for yourself, and get on a factory-backed racing team!
Okay?
Your mechanic work is good and all, but don't forget about F1!

Good grief...
...
OPEN
And you too, Boss.
So long, Tamotsu.

What!?
Gunma was just here a minute ago.
Morioka here. Oh, Ms. Komori.
RINNNNG
!!
The clothes, everything. And he's nowhere to be found!
His room is completely empty!
What happened?
He said he was on his way to pachinko.
MORIOKA MOTOR
FWOOH
ガラーーーン

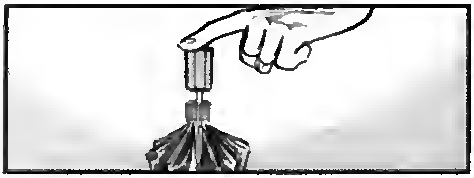
あばよ!!
軍
He left a short note on the wall.
So long!
G
あばよ
So long!
G
軍
Gun... Ergh...
Gu... Gu...
...was his farewell lunch!
Then what we just had...
Gun- maaa!

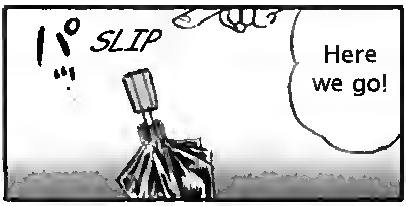

BEEP BEEP
DING DING DING DING
PACHINKO UNIVERSITY
BING BING BING
BOOP BOOP
BEEP BEEP
DING
DING DING
DING DING DING
DING DIIING
DING
Junko!
DING
Well?
DING
He's not here.
...
This is all your fault! You didn't do everything you could to stop him! You stupid girl!

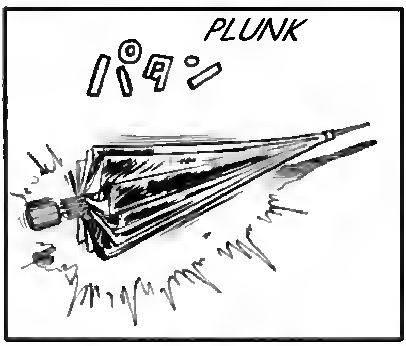
ゴォォ
VEEEEEEEEEEH
ォォ
ォォ

YAK
YAK
YAK
?

Narita Airport




SLIP
Here we go!


PLUNK

All right... Show me the way.
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK

That settles it.

BRITISH AIRWAYS
英国航空
OH!

VEEEEEEEEEEH
ゴォオオォン
BRITISH AIRW

ゴォォォォォー
VEEEEEEEEEH
ゴォォォォォォォー
VEEEEEEEEEH
キィィィィィ
VOOOOOOOOH

Chapter 5:
Foggy London

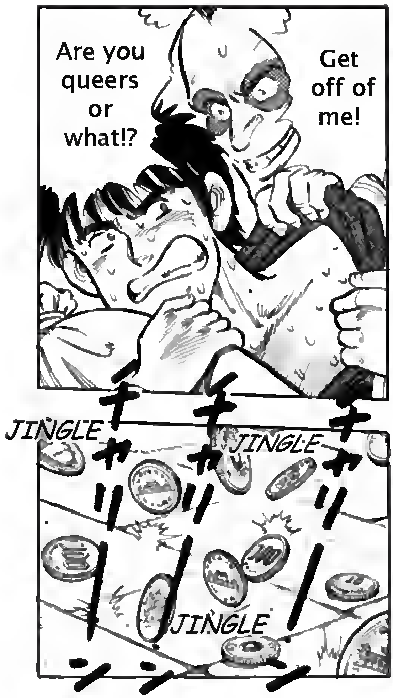
London
DRAKE
STARE
...
Kodak
SAN

London
Kodak
SAN

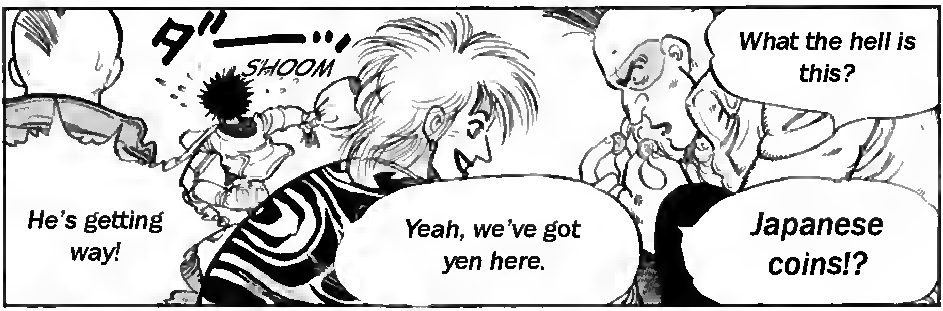
DRAKE
...
STARE

Heh heh...
?
?
SHUFFLE SHUFFLE
Hold on!
Don't go no-where!
travelcard and see t...
Hey! Come here, dude!
FLASH
Yeah!
Yes, you! Come here!
Heh heh! Take our picture. Snap snap, okay?

Huh?
We're not a bloody tourist attraction.
TAP
TAP
Hey, thanks a lot. Later.
Face the camera!
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
You want more? Okay, just two or three more pictures!
Punks are actually kinda spooky in the flesh!
If you want that photo, you pay up for our services!
It was just one picture. What's the problem?
Five in all.
How many did he take?
Wh... What the...!?
That's two pounds per shot, boy! For 10 pounds in all! So pay up!


Are you queers or what!?
Get off of me!
JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE

What are you guys doing!?
Take his clothes!
Doesn't he have any money!?


SHOOM
What the hell is this?
He's getting way!
Yeah, we've got yen here.
Japanese coins!?

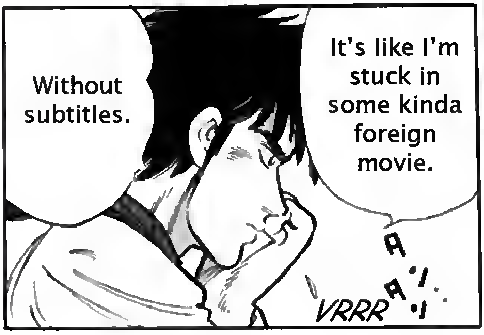
BAM

...and I ain't about to get raped by a pack of homos!
I come all the way to England...

You don't understand, do you! I am an elite businessman, and I need to walk Regent Street many times a day to get things done in the city!
So get out of my way!
Sh...
Watch where you're bloody goin'! I don't have time for this rubbish! Do you realize how busy I am!?
Urrgh
...
SHOOM
Crap, here they come...
SHOOM
I don't understand what the hell you're saying!
GRRRR
Shut up you stupid Brit!
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff

You get attacked by homos out of the blue?
What the hell kind of a country is this?

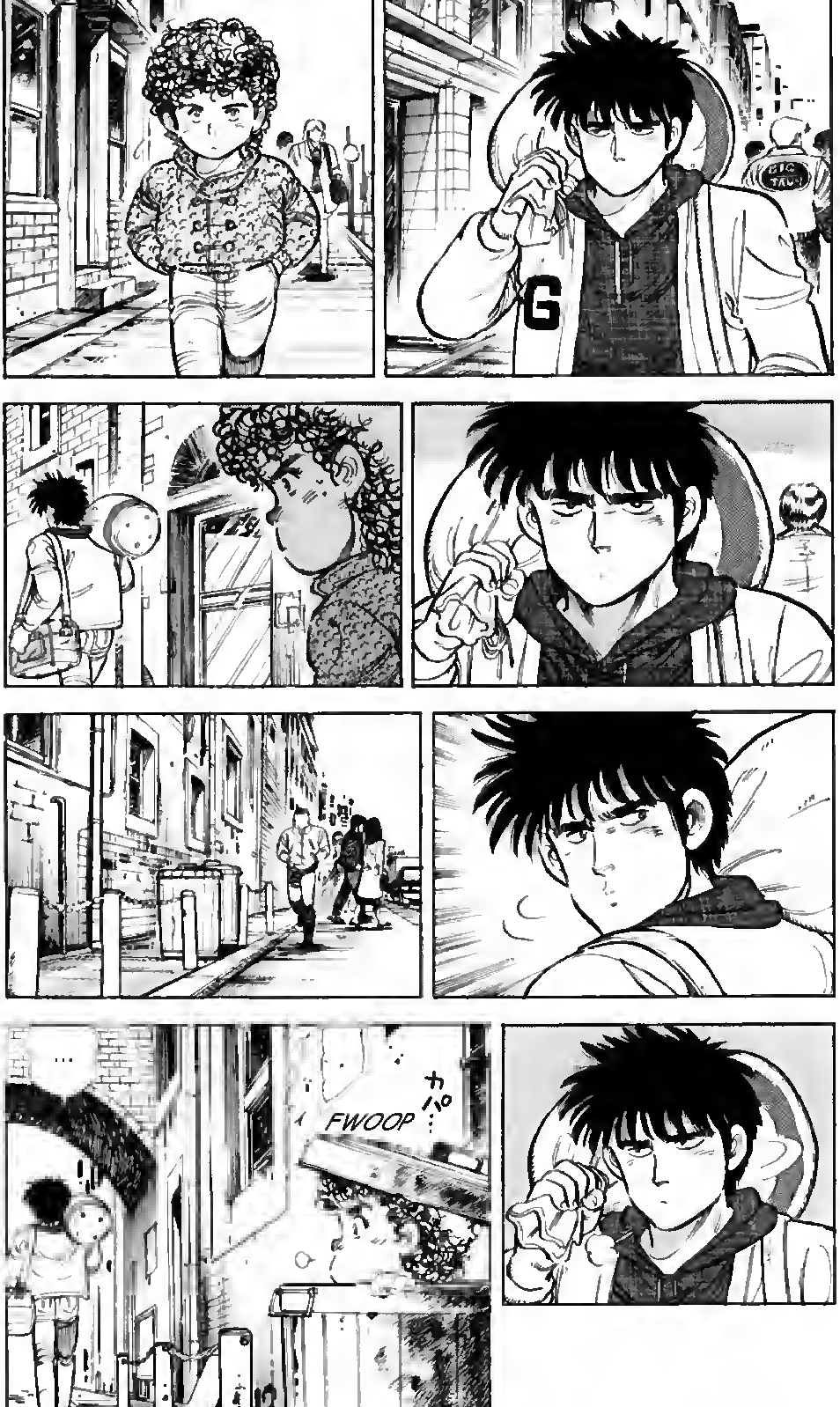
VRRRRRR

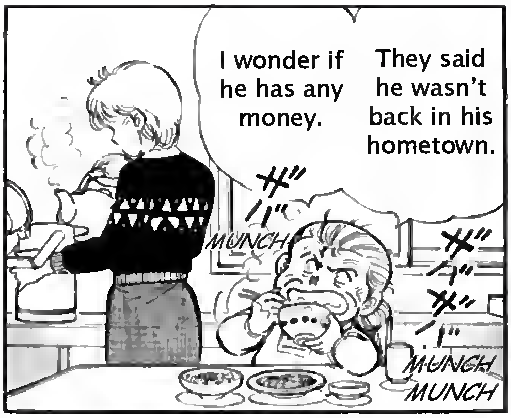

Without subtitles.
It's like I'm stuck in some kinda foreign movie.
VRRR

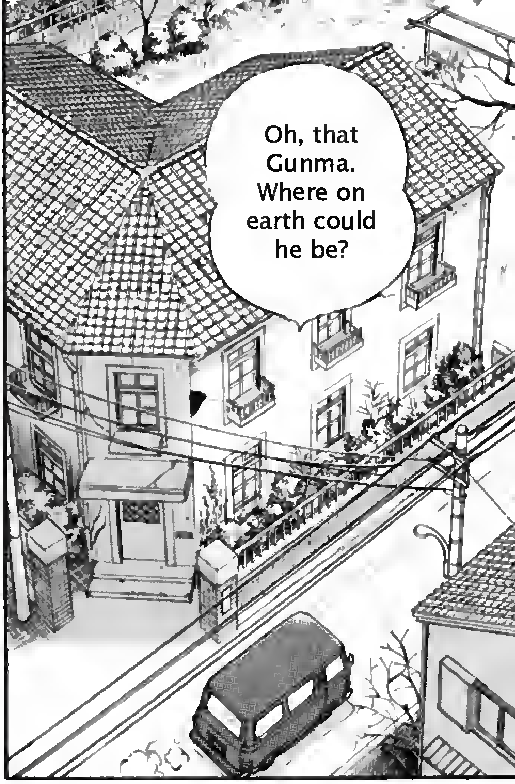
...

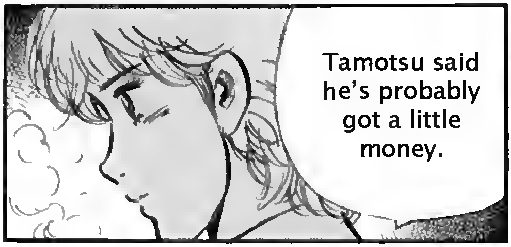
Better go find a cheap hotel.
Anyway, no sense in just standing around.

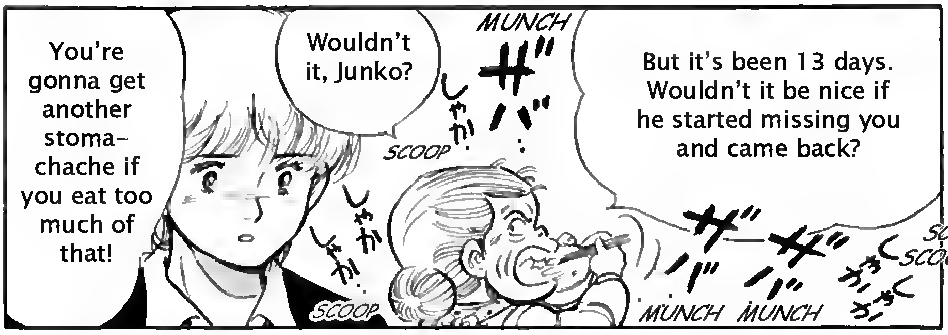
...

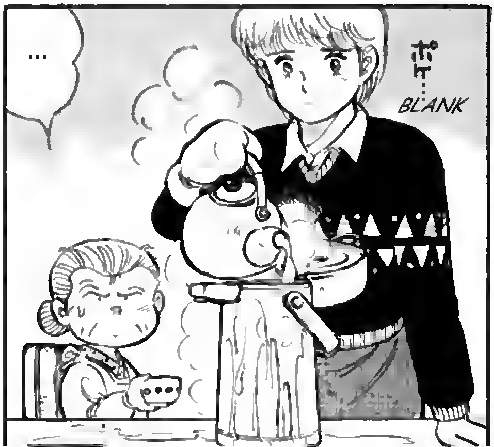

G
FWOOP
カハ…


I wonder if he has any money.
They said he wasn't back in his hometown.
MUNCH
MUNCH MUNCH

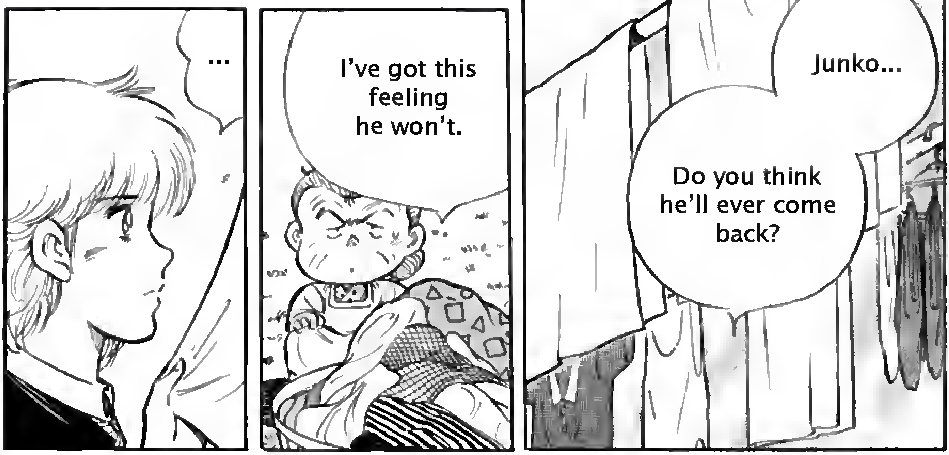

Oh, that Gunma. Where on earth could he be?

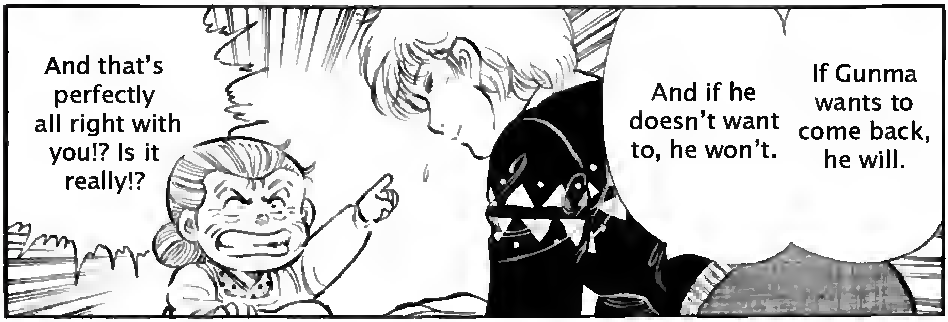

Tamotsu said he's probably got a little money.

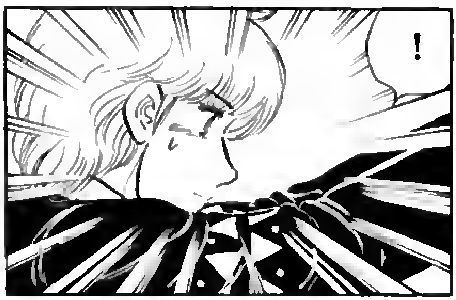

You're gonna get another stoma-chache if you eat too much of that!
Wouldn't it, Junko?
MUNCH
SCOOP
SCOOP
But it's been 13 days. Wouldn't it be nice if he started missing you and came back?
SCOOP SCOOP
MUNCH MUNCH


...
BLANK

Give me more!
I don't care!


...
I've got this feeling he won't.
Junko...
Do you think he'll ever come back?


And that's perfectly all right with you!? Is it really!?
And if he doesn't want to, he won't.
If Gunma wants to come back, he will.


!

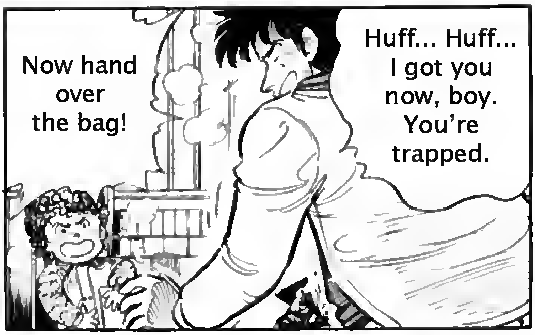
...
Oh fiddle-sticks. You might as well hang me up to dry, too...

What if he wants to come back, but he can't!?
If he doesn't want to come back, there's nothing we can do about it.

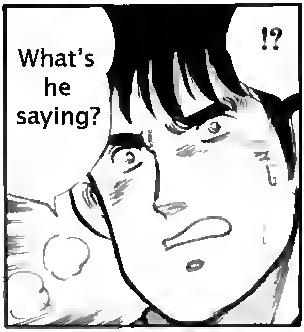
Man...
I shoulda studied English.
PUH
After paying the airfare, I only got about 10 thousand yen left.
All the hotels look expensive here.
What do you want?
You've been following me for a while, haven't you!
Hey you little brat!
FWOOSH
If it's money, I ain't got any!
No need to take it out on a kid.
Whatever...

I know a place you can sleep. I'll show you.
Come on!
TUG
TUG
Yer gettin' on my nerves, kid.
I'm busy, got it?
Take a hike, little man.
Go play in the street.
...
All right?
No time to babysit! It's getting cold out, so I gotta find a place to stay!
That kid's got my bag!
SHOOM
Hey!
SHOOP

It's good! Understand?
Sleep here!
THUNK


Now hand over the bag!
Huff... Huff... I got you now, boy. You're trapped.

Is he saying I should sleep here?
You can sleep here! Sleep!
Okay?


What's he saying?
!?

So I came to London to be a hobo.
...
Bye bye! Good luck!
FWOOOOH
PEPPERONI
But man, England is freakin' cold.
PLUNK
Well, at least it's free, I guess.
And the kid was being nice, so I should take him up on it.
...
Yuki...
Junko...
I wonder what she's up to

Whoa!
Wh–wh–what...
Aaugh!
So you're the bloke who threatened little Peabow, are ya? And messed up our sleeping space?

That's right, Sako! He hit me three times!

How dare you hit a child. That's unforgivable.

Hey, you're that kid from earlier.

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Chapter 6:
Rock Bottom

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
KILL

You're messing up my beauty sleep.
Wh-what the hell is this!?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
You clowns don't know who you're dealing with!
You gonna rob me!?
Wait a second here!

MUTTER
ON!
MUTTER
Bring it on, fools! I'll knock you out cold!
WHAM
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
Wait!
Why you no good...
You...

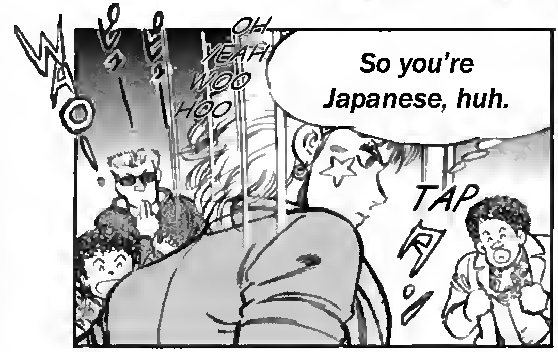
Yay! Sako's gonna dance!
Let me do this guy! I'll put on a little show!

GRIN
Have at it, Sako! We'll leave him to you!
Brilliant! I haven't seen her dance in a while.

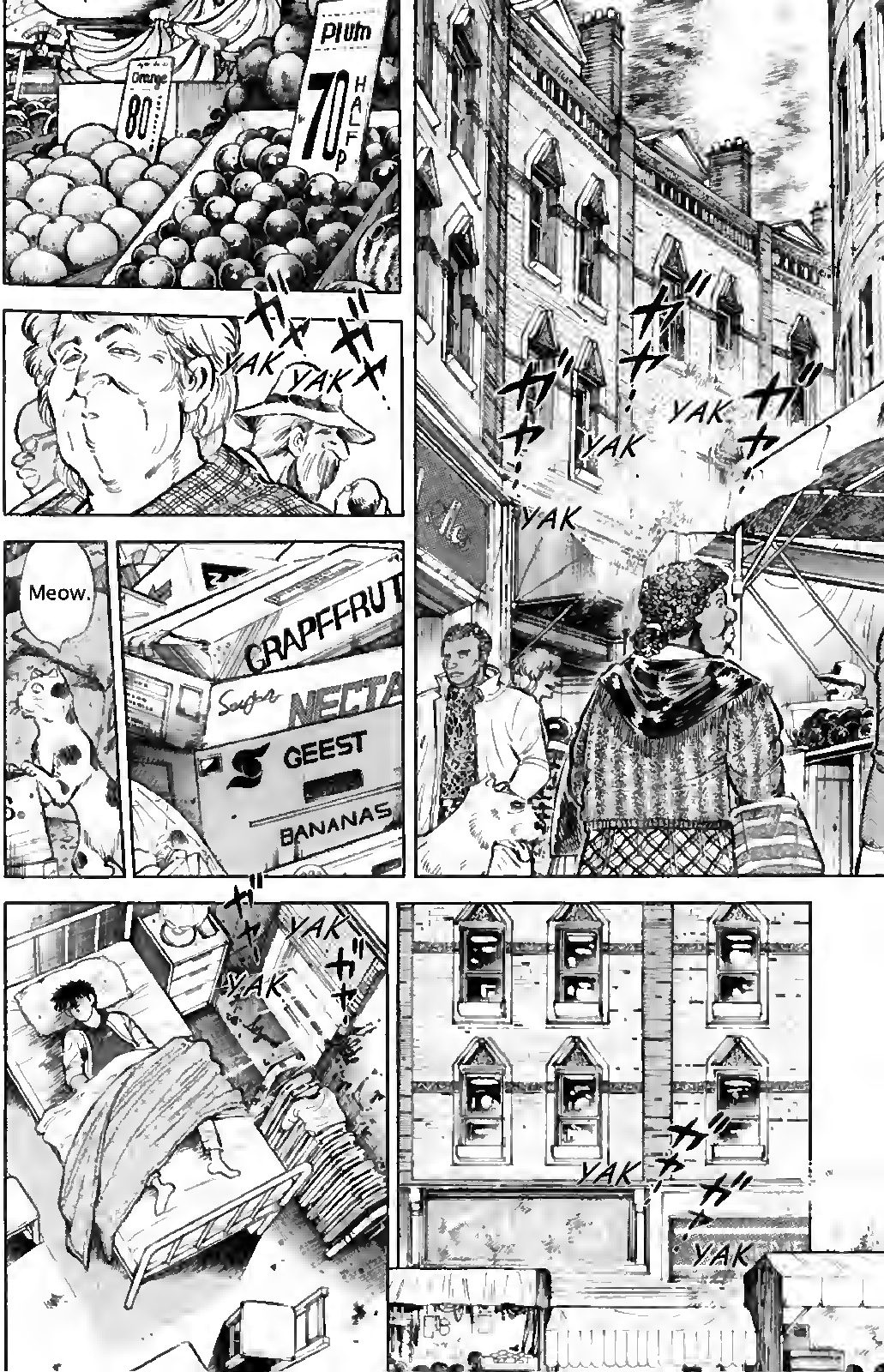
BAM
BANG BUH BANG BANG
Start the music!
What's this? You think you can take me?
I ain't fightin' no chick! No way!

You're the sexiest woman alive, Sako!
TANG
TANG TUH TANG TAN
What the hell is this? You're dancing now?
BANG BUH BANG
BANG
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
Who does she think she...
Gimme a break.
Awesome!
WOOHOO
TAP
TAP

WHAP
Urf!

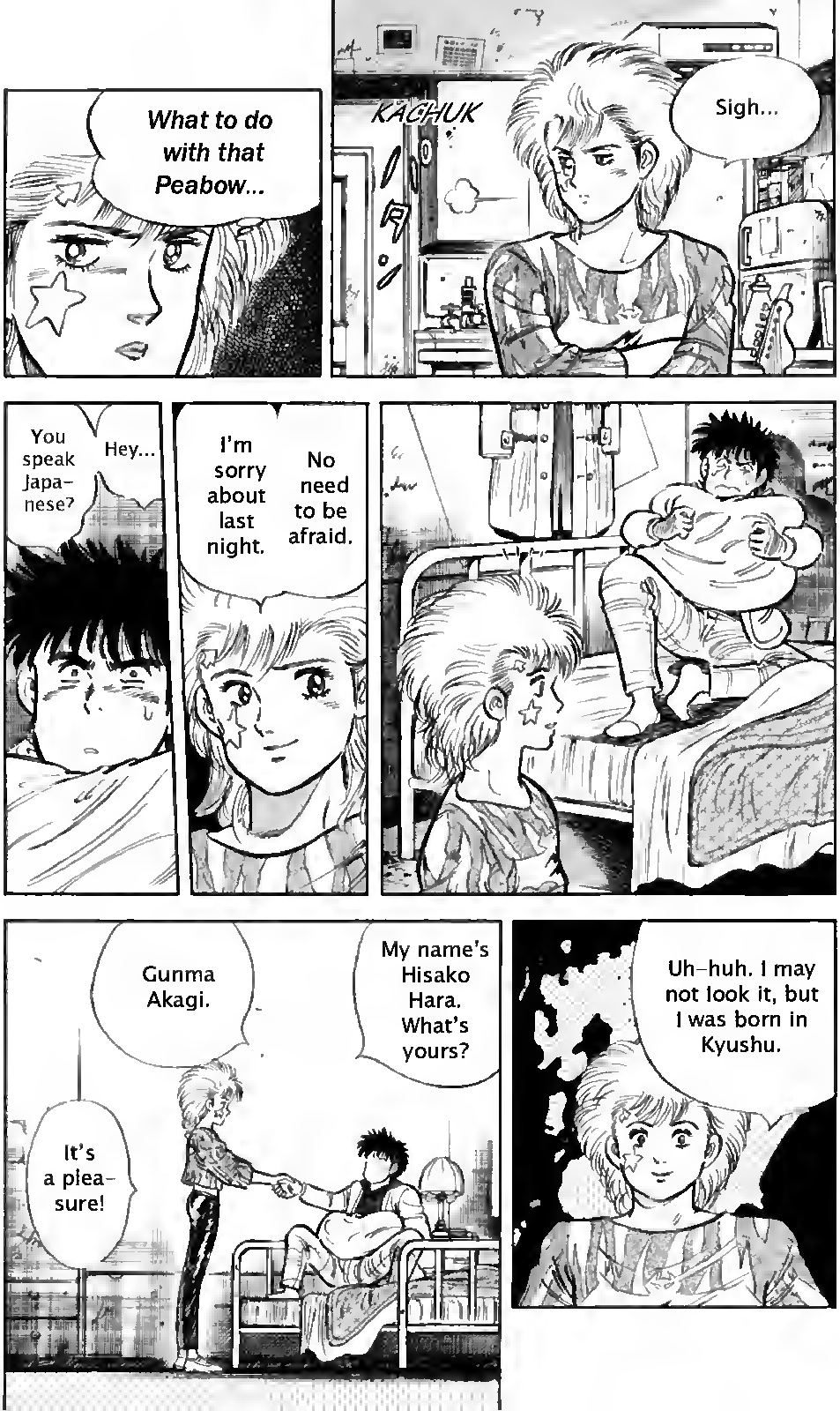

WHOO
OH YEAH WOO HOO
So you're Japanese, huh.
TAP

CRASH

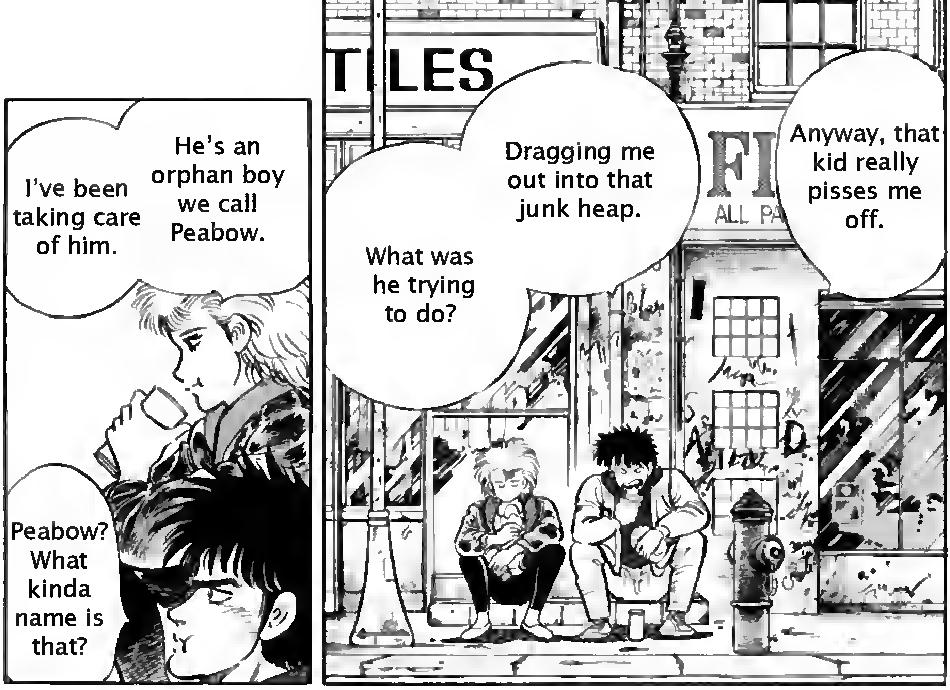

Plum
70p
HALF
Orange
80
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK
Meow.
GRAPEFRUIT
Sugar
NECTA
GEEST
BANANAS
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK

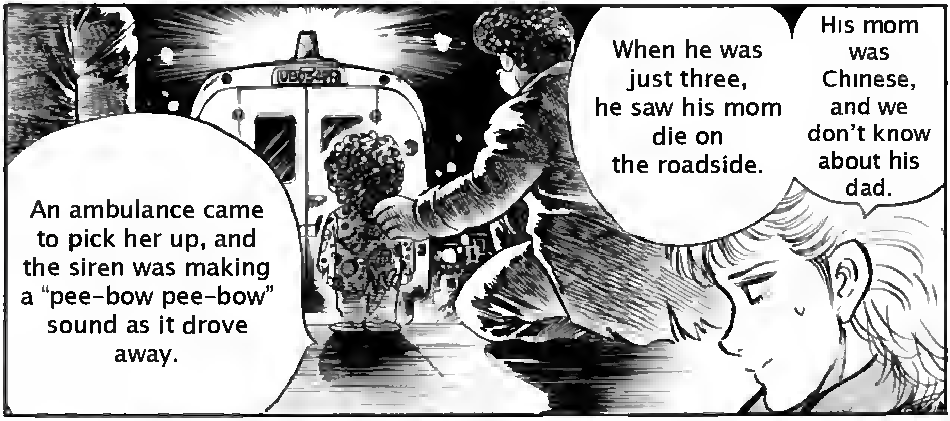
Ugh...
ズキ
THROB
Wait... Last night, I...
...
Where the hell am I?
カチャ
KACHUK

Shh! Sako's coming! Pretend you're asleep!
Hey, you're that kid from last night...
Awake already, are you? Did you sleep well?
Ow ow ow...
PINCH
Can you understand me?
Just go to sleep. Then Sako will see you and feel sorry for you.
Geez, don't push. That hurts...
Okay, okay...
Get out of here, Peabow! I'll deal with you later!
Sako, he's really buggered, and has quite the headache!
Peabow!

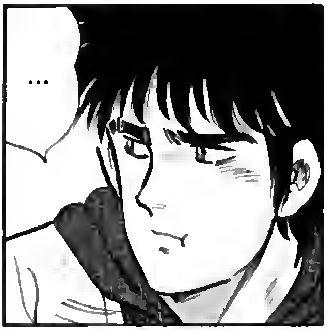

What to do with that Peabow...
KACHUK
Sigh...
You speak Japa-nese?
Hey...
I'm sorry about last night.
No need to be afraid.
Gunma Akagi.
My name's Hisako Hara. What's yours?
It's a plea-sure!
Uh-huh. I may not look it, but I was born in Kyushu.

You'd be wise to leave this city, and fast.
Again, I want to apologize for last night.
That's the only way I could satisfy the others.
I brought in your things.
Everything is there.
You can stand, right?
What's wrong?
...
Everybody jabberin' at me in English makes my head spin.
If you're so sorry, how about taking me to breakfast?
FISH & CHIPS
Fishmonger
FISH & CHIPS
ALL PARTIES CATERED FOR
Seacoast
All right, let's go then.
MADNESS
RUMBLE RUMBLE


TILES
Anyway, that kid really pisses me off.
Dragging me out into that junk heap.
What was he trying to do?
He's an orphan boy we call Peabow.
I've been taking care of him.
Peabow? What kinda name is that?


His mom was Chinese, and we don't know about his dad.
When he was just three, he saw his mom die on the roadside.
An ambulance came to pick her up, and the siren was making a "pee-bow pee-bow" sound as it drove away.

He's a lonely kid, and I think he took to you right away.
So don't be too hard on him.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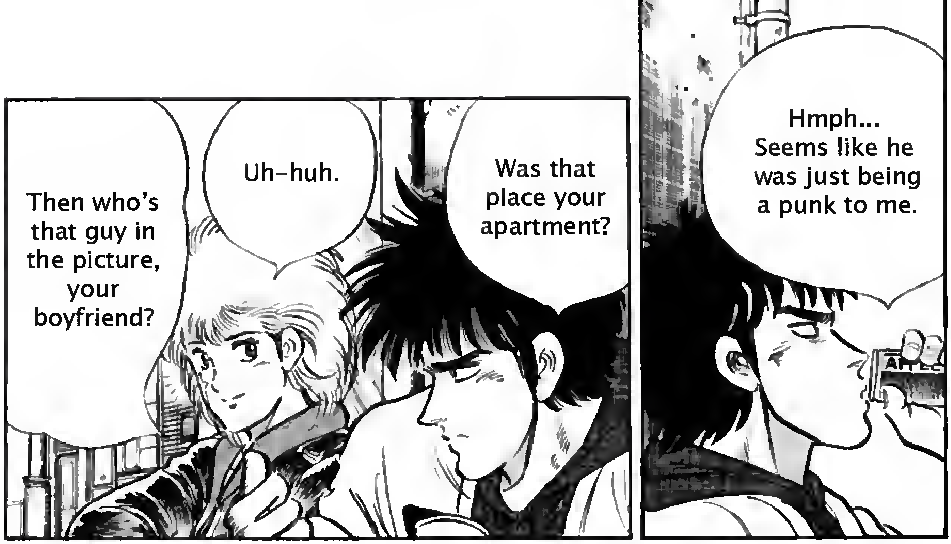
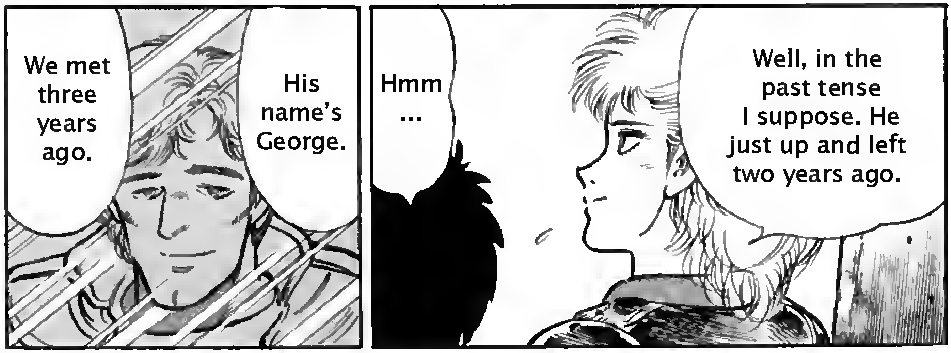
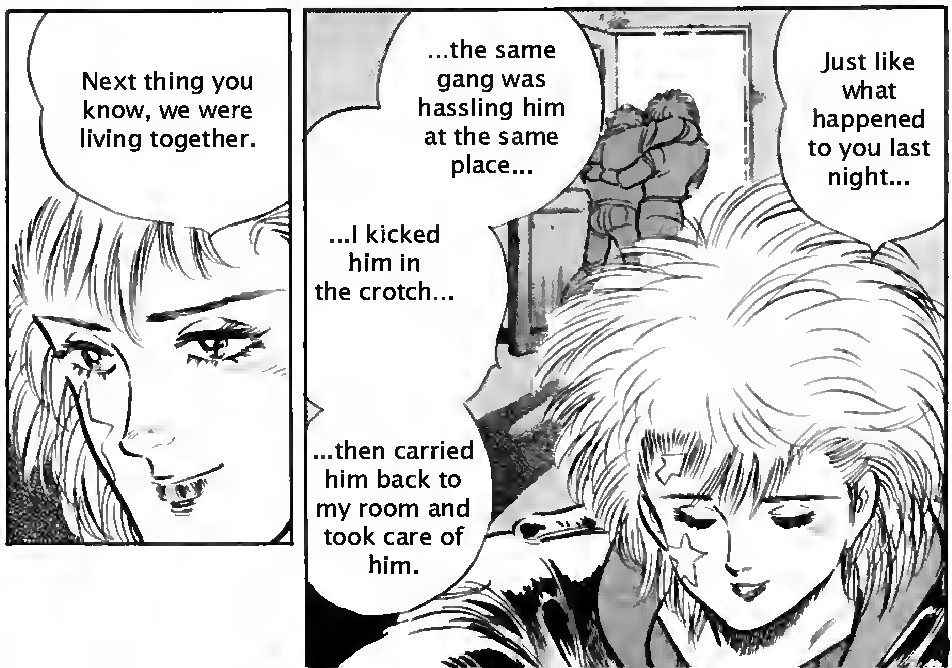

Hmph... Seems like he was just being a punk to me.
Was that place your apartment?
Uh-huh.
Then who's that guy in the picture, your boyfriend?


Well, in the past tense I suppose. He just up and left two years ago.
Hmm ...
His name's George.
We met three years ago.


Just like what happened to you last night...
...the same gang was hassling him at the same place...
...I kicked him in the crotch...
...then carried him back to my room and took care of him.
Next thing you know, we were living together.

I see.
Peabow found you, a traveler in the city similar to George, took you to that spot, and sort of reenacted the same situation.
Does it make any sense now?
He was probably thinking we'd live together if he made it happen again.
George loved Peabow to death...
...almost like his own son.
Come quick!
Sako!
What!?
?
Peabow... He's been hit by a car!

She said Peabow's been hit by a car!
What is it? Did some-thing happen?
YAK
YAK
!!
MURMUR
MURMUR
Sako...
Hang in there, boy.
Peabow!

...
I called, but the traffic...
Where's the ambulance!? Didn't anyone call for one!?

Peabow!
What are we gonna do? He's losing so much blood!

...

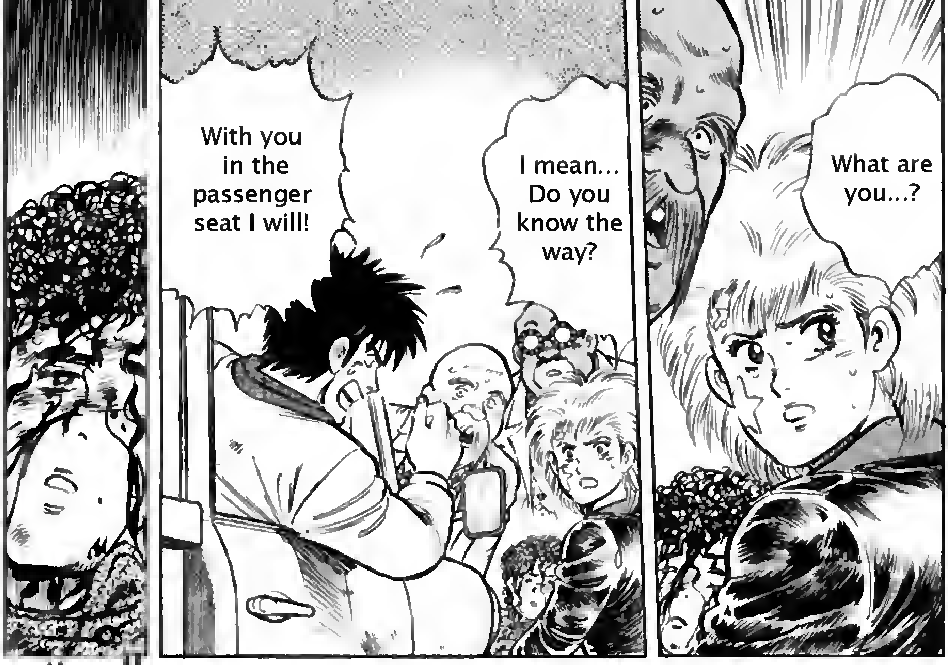
F

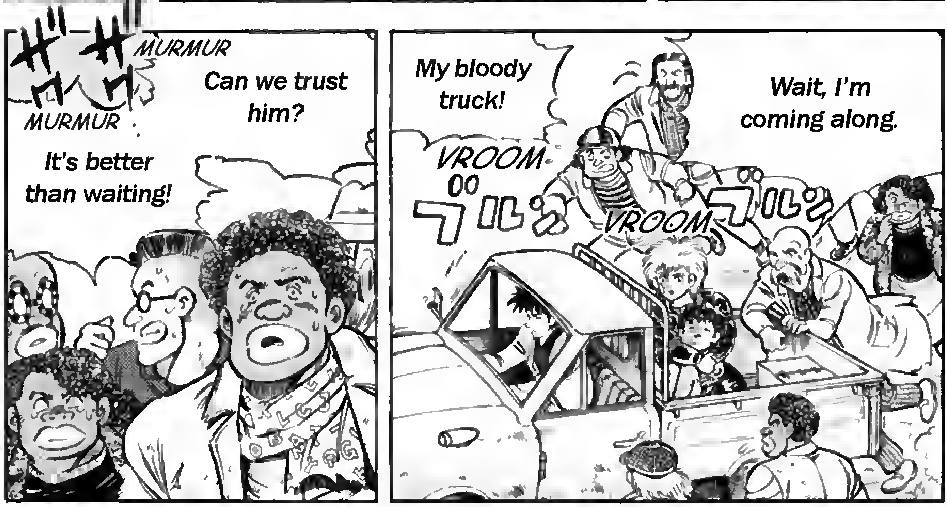
VOL.12

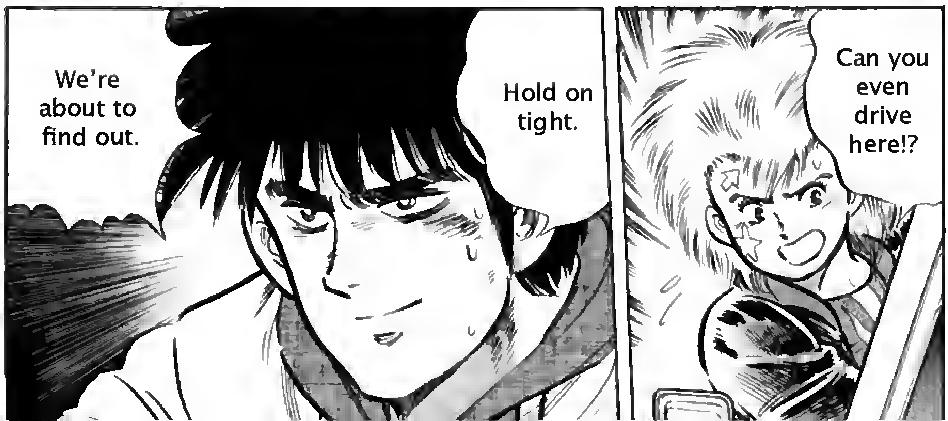
Chapter 7: Dancing Girl

Sako... Did you and him... Hit it off...?
The Japanese bloke...?
That's not important right now!
It's important... to me...
Where's the bloody ambulance!? Keep your eyes open, Peabow!
Come on... What could be the hold up?
Your hands are shaking, Doctor!
I'll stop the blood.
Sako, don't move him too much. Keep him still.
Doctor Boozer.

Sako... That Japanese bloke...
We'll just have to wait a bit longer.
Enough about that, Peabow!
YAK
At this rate we'll have to take him to your place for care!
YAK
YAK
YAK
No, he's taken a nasty blow to the head, so he better go into hospital.
!?
SHOOM
What the bloody hell!?
KACHUK
Lemme borrow this, dude.
We're going for a ride!
Load up the kid, Sako!
VRRR

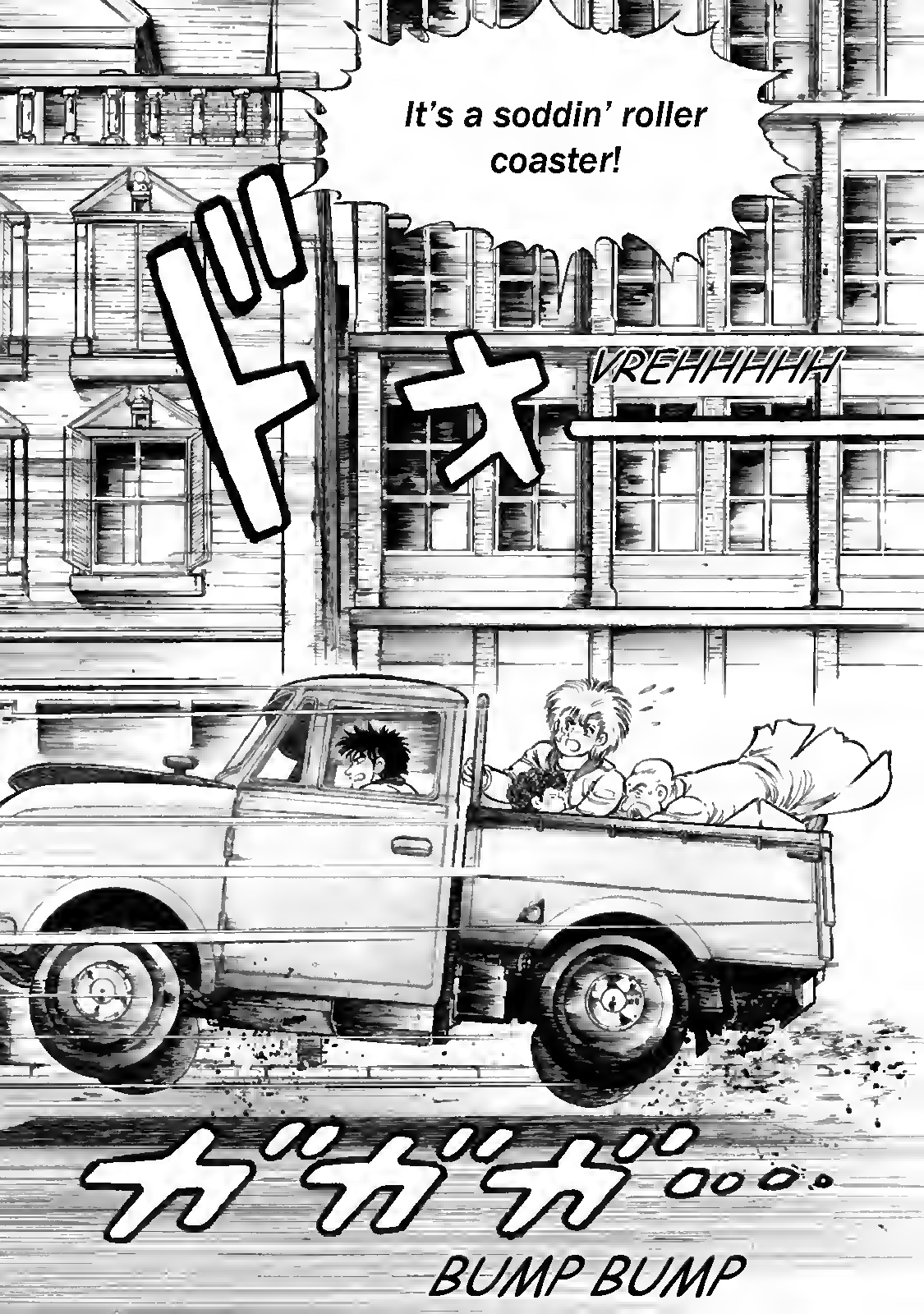

With you in the passenger seat I will!
I mean... Do you know the way?
What are you...?


MURMUR
MURMUR
Can we trust him?
It's better than waiting!
My bloody truck!
VROOM
VROOM
Wait, I'm coming along.


We're about to find out.
Hold on tight.
Can you even drive here!?

VROOOM
YAK
YAK
Outta the way!
VROOOH

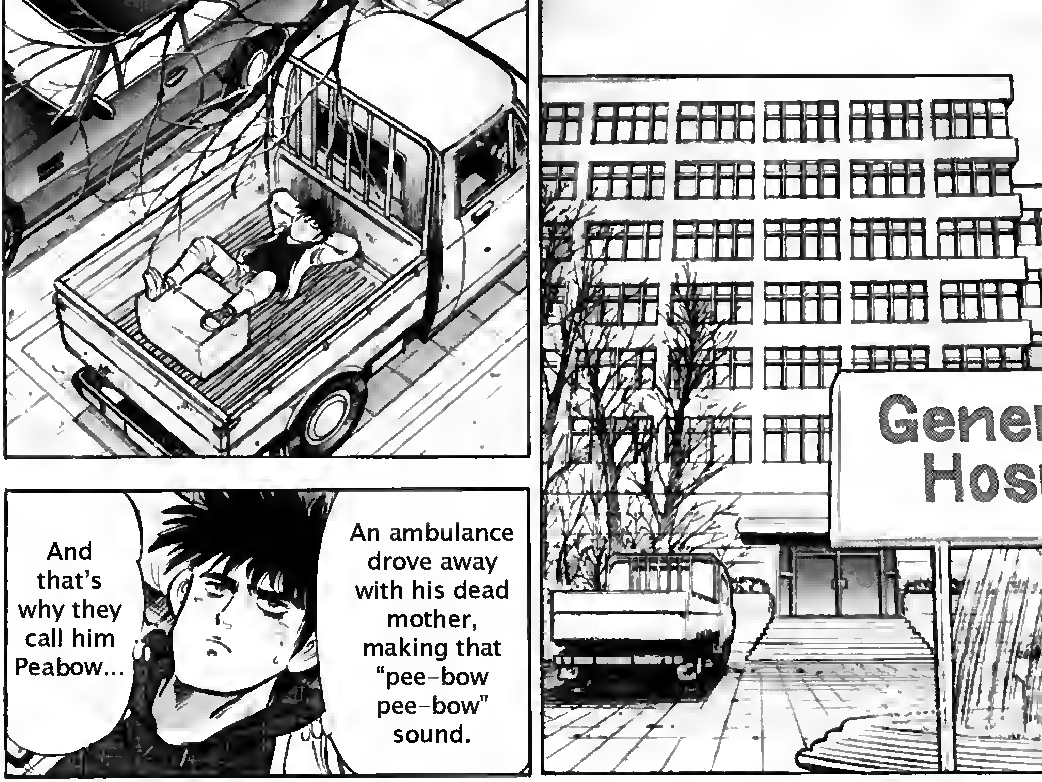
ZOOOOOOM
He just blasted off...
Was my truck that fast?
IRRK
SCREETCH
Is he nuts!?
SCREEECH


It's a soddin' roller coaster!
ドォ
VREHHHHH
ガガガ…
BUMP BUMP

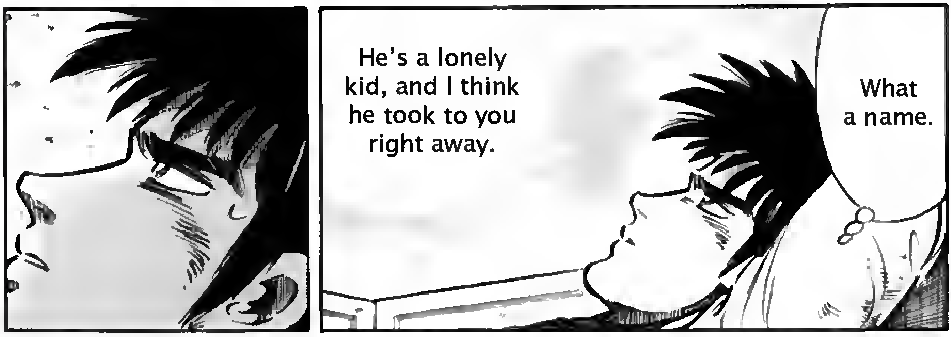
Take your third right, then cross the bridge and take a left! But be careful! The intersections here aren't like Japan!
BREHHH
Call me Gunma!
Akagi...
Turn! Now!
VRRR
SHOOM
VRRR
VRRR

(This is brilliant...)
He's liable to break a few more bones at this rate!

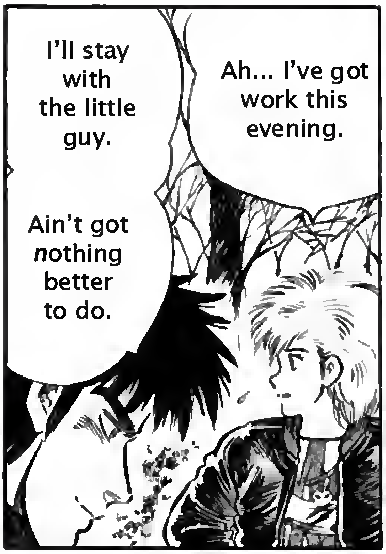
CRUK
SLAM
BREHHHH
BEER
BABUMP


Gener
Hos

And that's why they call him Peabow...
An ambulance drove away with his dead mother, making that "pee-bow pee-bow" sound.

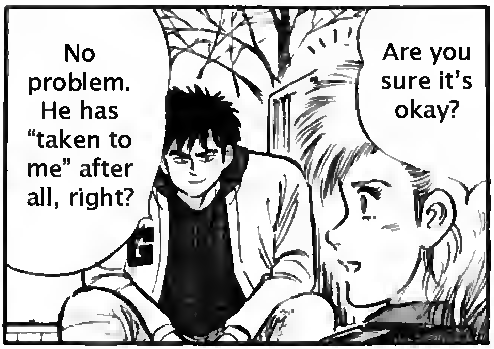

He's a lonely kid, and I think he took to you right away.
What a name.

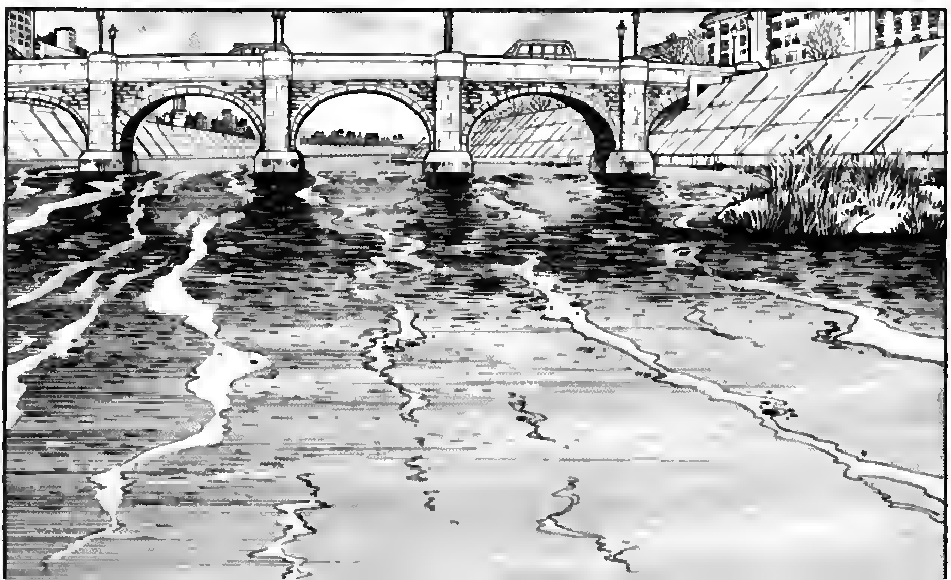
I've got a sore bum, thanks to you.
The surgery's over, and he'll be fine thanks to you.
TUNK


I'll stay with the little guy.
Ain't got nothing better to do.
Ah... I've got work this evening.

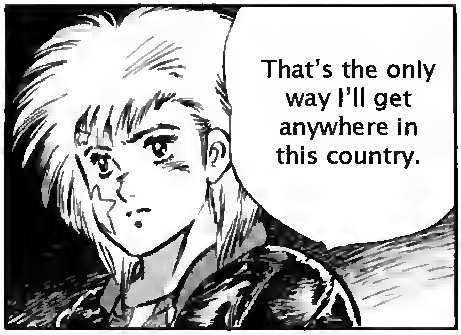
What's next?
Bravo! You were much faster than an ambulance!
He's still asleep from the medication, but someone should stay with him.

Let's go home for a change of clothes first, Sako.
VRRR

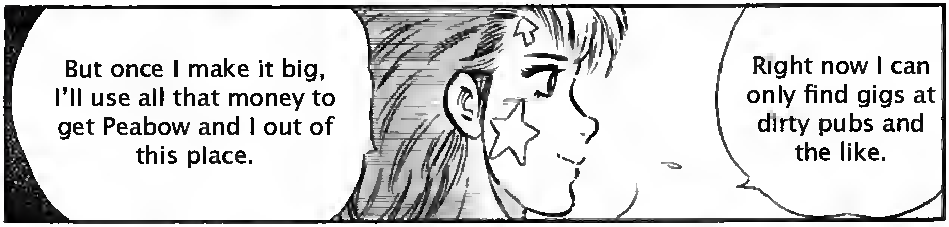

No problem. He has "taken to me" after all, right?
Are you sure it's okay?

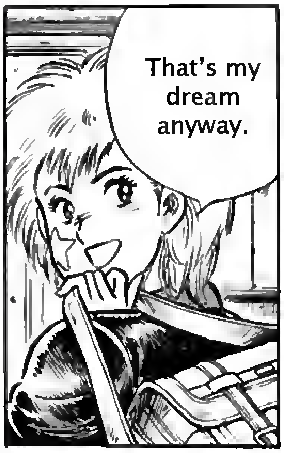


He's exactly like you.
Hm hm...
He don't look anything like me.
You're kid-ding.
You've got the same eyes as George.
What?
It's the eyes.
I'm better lookin' for sure.
No way.
ドスン
THUMP
Like you've given up on life.
!

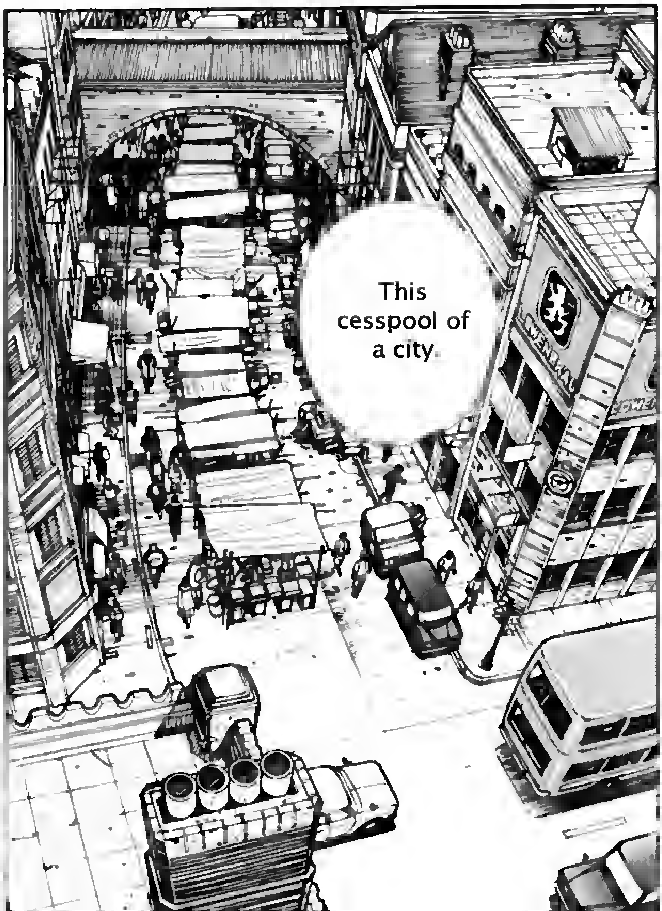

That's the only way I'll get anywhere in this country.

I'm a musi-cian.
What do you do for work?
Tsh...


But once I make it big, I'll use all that money to get Peabow and I out of this place.
Right now I can only find gigs at dirty pubs and the like.


That's my dream anyway.

...

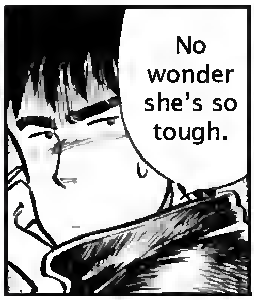

This cesspool of a city.

ROYAL LOON
Itai! Still hurts!
I'm still injured, you know!
Unders-tand? That's Japanese!
Wait up, Gunma! Come on!
Don't walk so fast!
I know, you're Gunma! Gunma Akagi!
I... not... George. Got it?
Don't expect me to get all touchy-feely with you like George.
HRRRNG
Um... Sako, bang bang, you do yet?
What?
Did you do it with Sako yet?

You don't like Sako?
Is that it?
...and I helped you pee a bunch of times through the night, remember?
I slept at the hospital, in the hallway...
You go sleep in Sako apartment, right?
When I was in hospital...
I mean ...
HOO HOO
BOO
Then do the bang bang, already!
I don't hate her.
I want her... be happy.
Sako... She very lonely.
You gotta work on your Japanese.
Dude...
OW
JRAAANG
She said you're the lonely one.

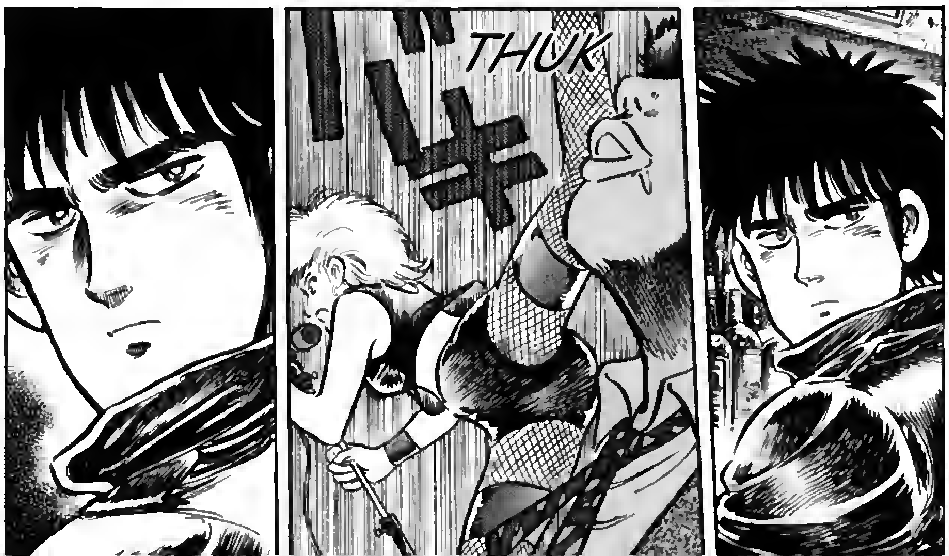
BADA BOOM
NEHH NEH NEEER
Oy! All ya filthy pissheads!

But she fights back with dancing.
...and they touch her body.
Sako lots of lonely. She always dance for drunks at pub...


No wonder she's so tough.

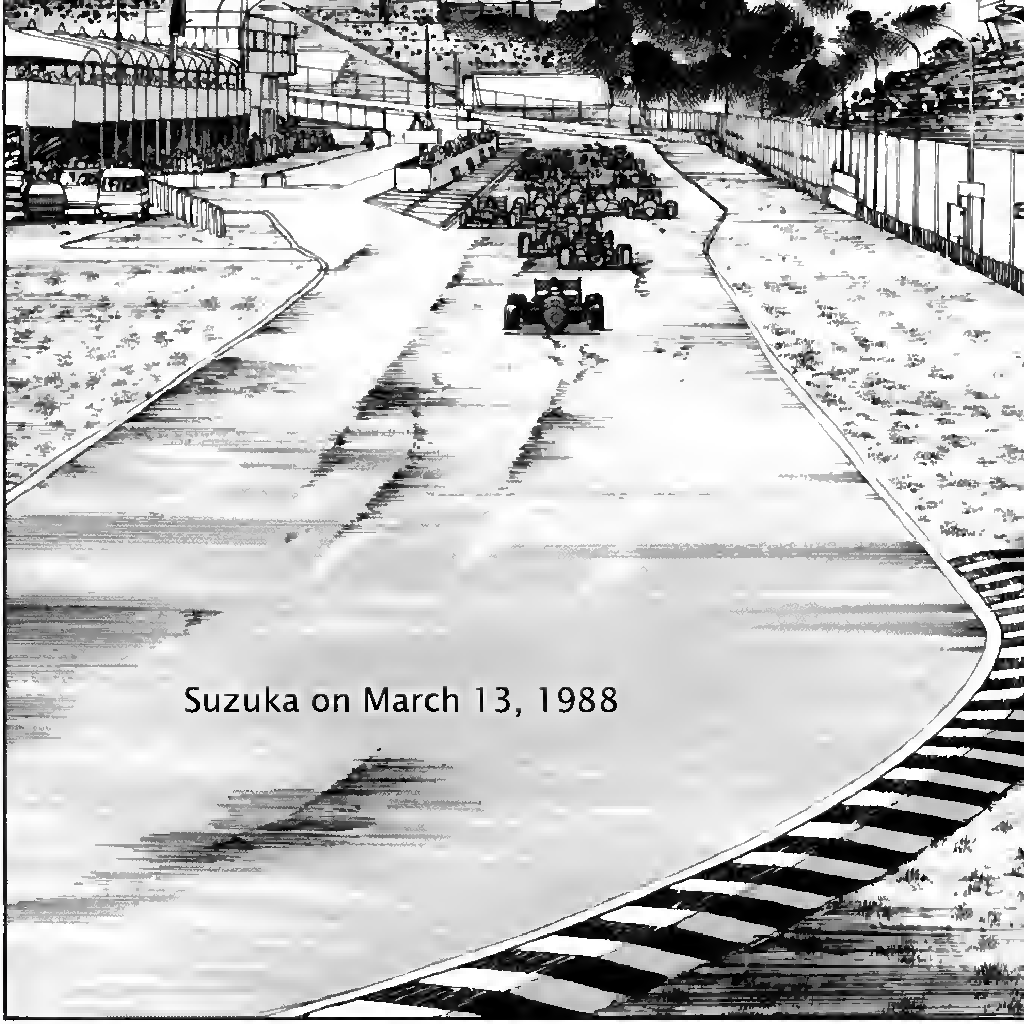
KRAK
Let's dance!

She dances when she's lonely.
And when she's mad.
But when she's happy too, she dances.

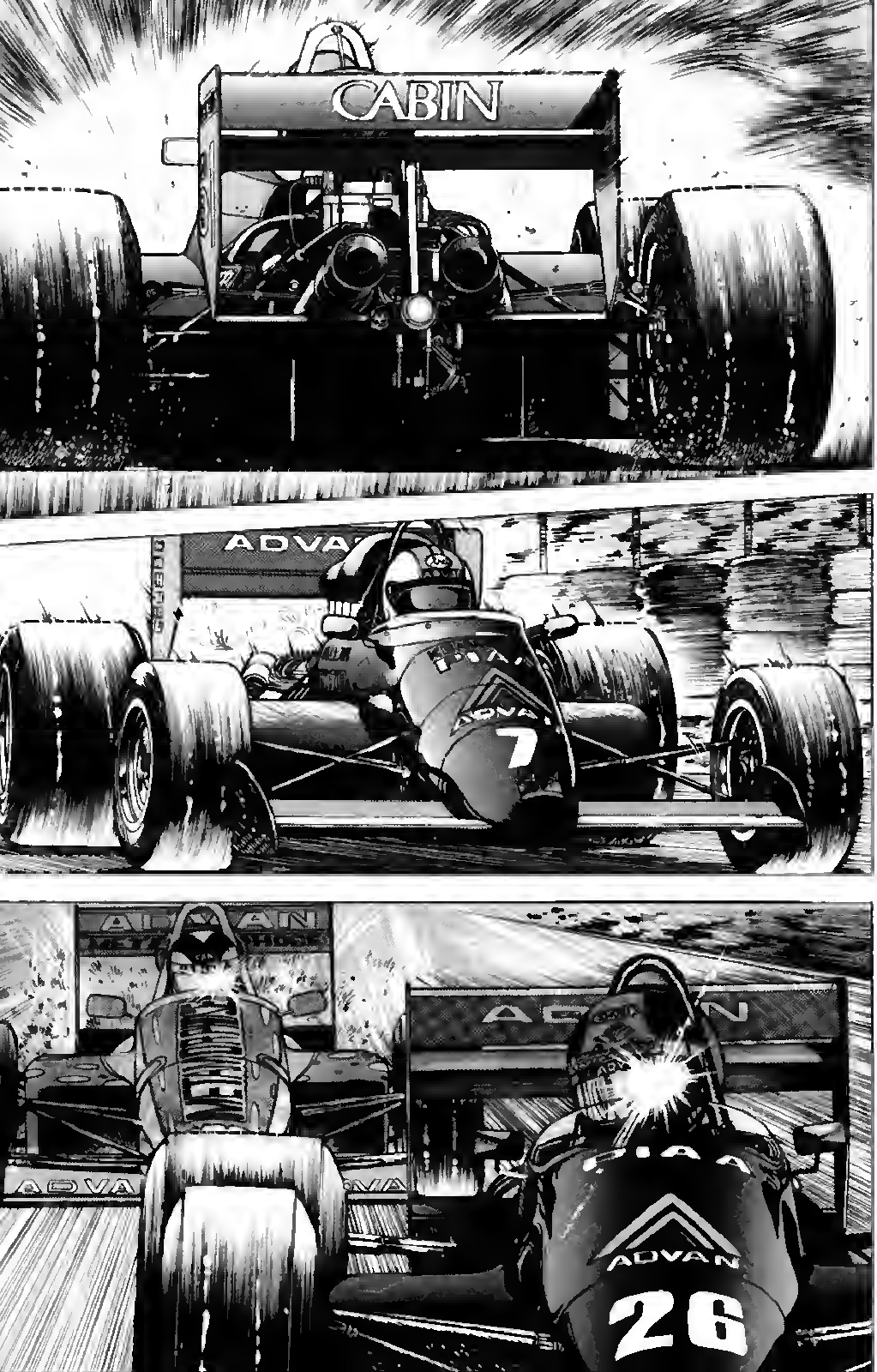

THUK

I can tell.
Today's the happy dance!
Look, so happy!
Why you think? Why? Huh!?

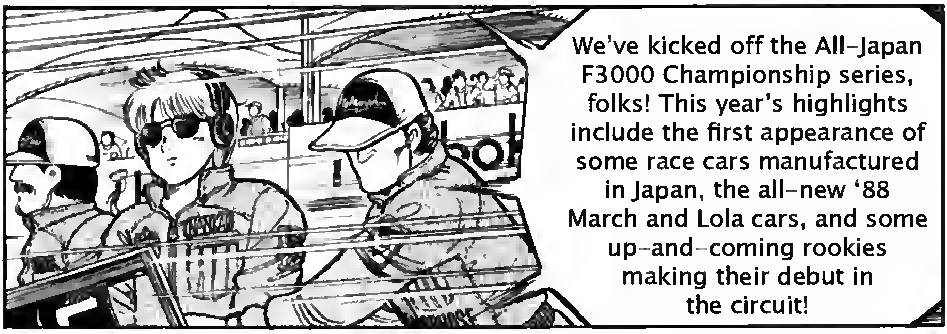
Chapter 8: Starting Fresh


Suzuka on March 13, 1988

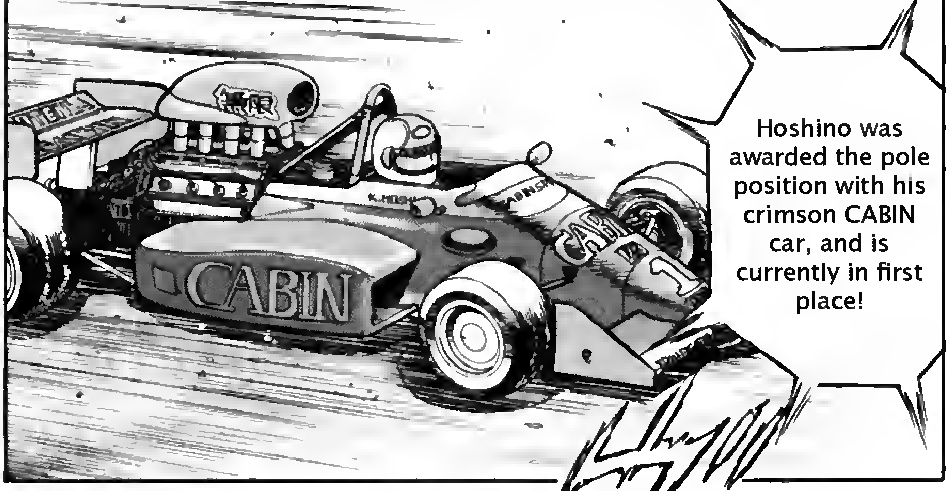
Race 1 of the 1988
All-Japan Series Big 2 & 4
Racing: International
F3000 Championship

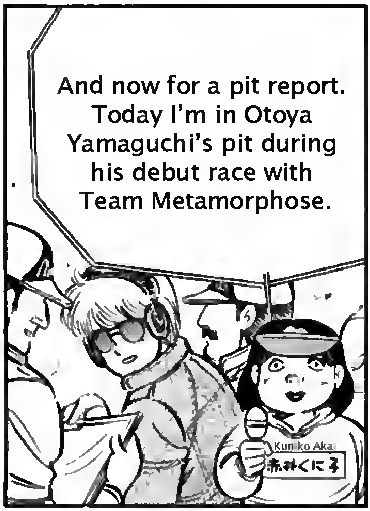

CABIN
ADVAN
7
ADVAN
26

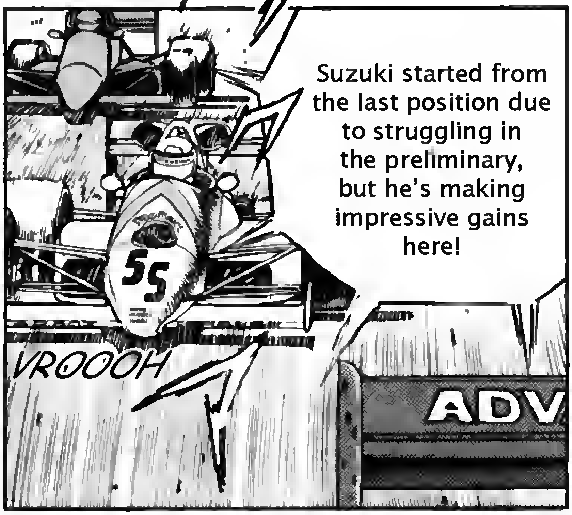
ADVAN
100
ADVAN
ADVAN

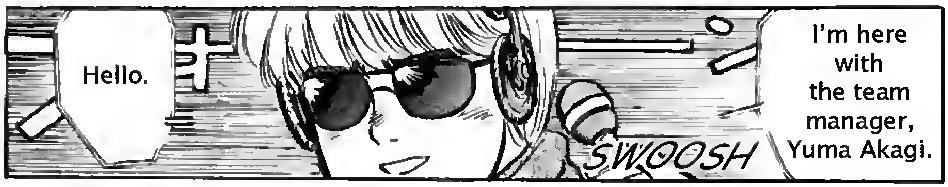

We've kicked off the All-Japan F3000 Championship series, folks! This year's highlights include the first appearance of some race cars manufactured in Japan, the all-new '88 March and Lola cars, and some up-and-coming rookies making their debit in the circuit!

He's currently in fifth place!
OYA
One rookie of particular interest is Otoya Yamaguchi, driving a March 88B, with major financial backing from his new sponsor, Metamorphose!

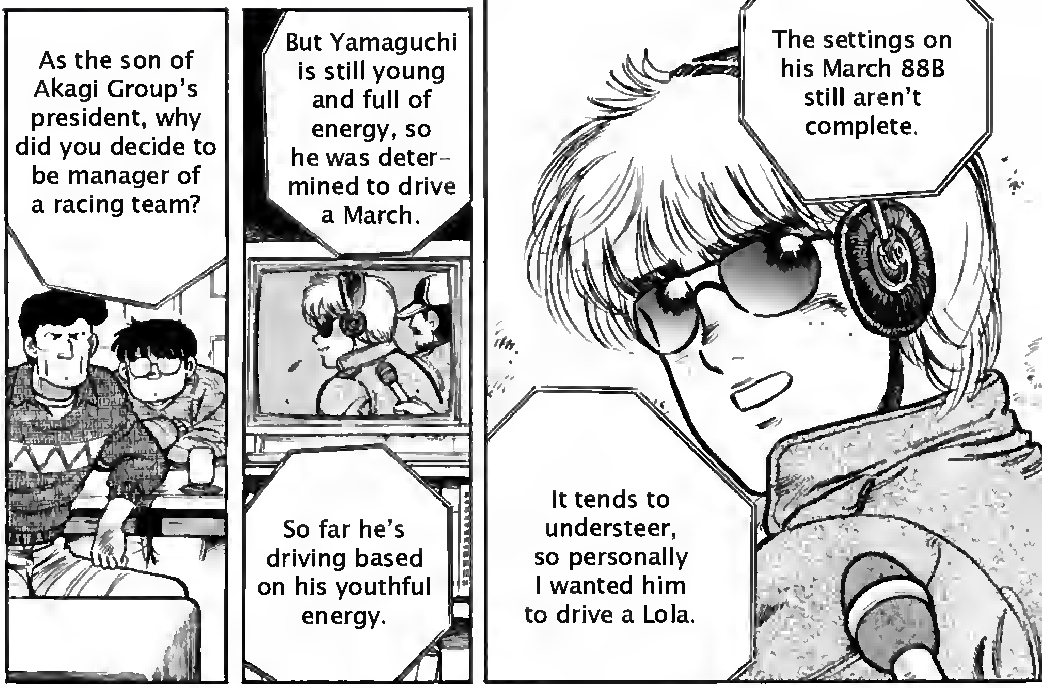

CABIN
Hoshino was awarded the pole position with his crimson CABIN car, and is currently in first place!

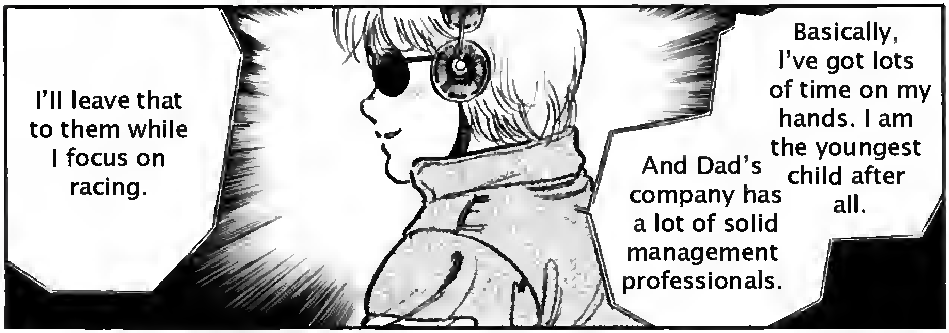

And now for a pit report. Today I'm in Otoya Yamaguchi's pit during his debut race with Team Metamorphose.
Kumiko Aka
赤みくにる

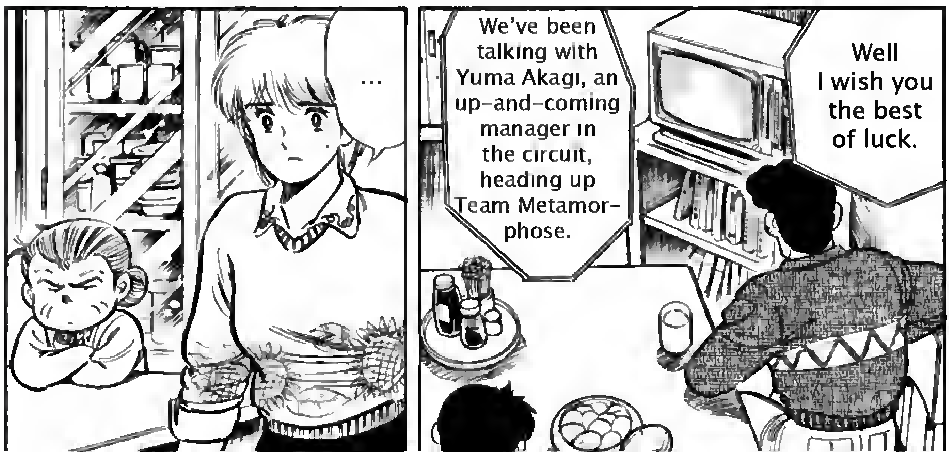

Suzuki started from the last position due to struggling in the preliminary, but he's making impressive gains here!
55
VROOOH
ADV


Hello.
I'm here with the team manager, Yuma Akagi.
SWOOSH

I see he's currently in fifth.
How's your driver doing?
We believe he can do better.
Great.


As the son of Akagi Group's president, why did you decide to be manager of a racing team?
But Yamaguchi is still young and full of energy, so he was determined to drive a March.
So far he's driving based on his youthful energy.
The settings on his March 88B still aren't complete.
It tends to understeer, so personally I wanted him to drive a Lola.


I'll leave that to them while I focus on racing.
And Dad's company has a lot of solid management professionals.
Basically, I've got lots of time on my hands. I am the youngest child after all.


...
We've been talking with Yuma Akagi, an up-and-coming manager in the circuit, heading up Team Metamorphose.
Well I wish you the best of luck.

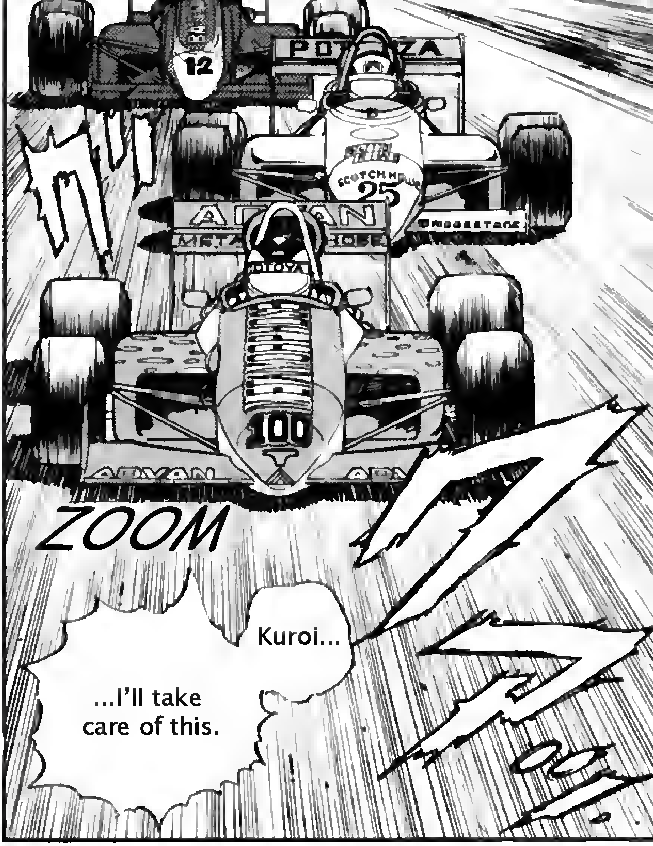
SLAM
Yuma Akagi, an up-and-coming manager in the circuit?
They didn't say a word about Gunma.
Stop it, Auntie. You shouldn't be drinking so early in the day.
Gunma Akagi!
Let go of me, Junko! This bottle has my name on it!
...it should be Gun-ma!
If an Akagi is mentioned with the circuit...
I miss it a lot.
Now that we're out of the loop.
GULULU
I really miss...
...being a part of some-thing.
I suppose Gunma didn't need us after all...

VROOOOH
VRR
Goro...
How can you just sit there and watch the race, Kuroi?
Neither do you, without Gunma in front of your lens.
You don't look very excited.
Yasu was looking for you in the paddock. I heard he found a new driver!
Yasu's good at what he does.
It's because he believes in Gunma.
...
Quietly plugging away on that car, just as always.
Tamotsu's the only one who hasn't changed.

Hard to say.
A part of me thinks he'll be back tomorrow, but sometimes I think he's gone for good.
What do you think? Is he gone for good?
He believes Gunma's coming back.
KUROI RACING
...he could have left Japan.
For all I know...
...
GLUG
That's what my gut tells me.
Wasting his time in some foreign country.

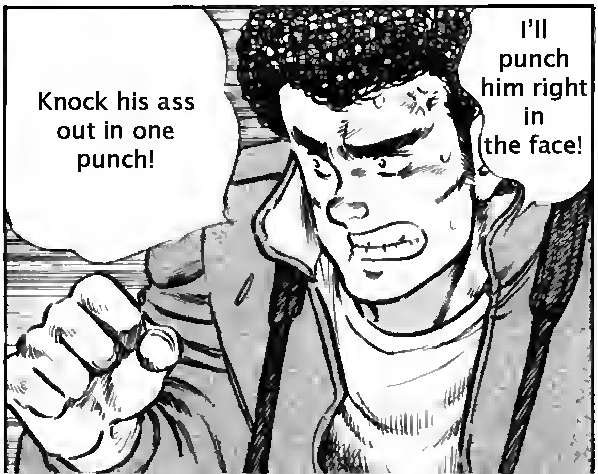
!

And I'll track him down!
I'll search the world inside out for Gunma!


12
POTENZA
25
ADVAN
100
ZOOM
Kuroi...
...I'll take care of this.

...then what?
If you do find him...

GLUG

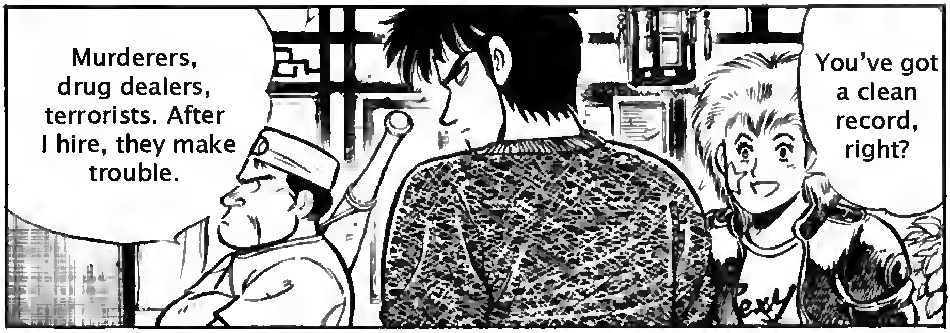

Knock his ass out in one punch!
I'll punch him right in the face!

Get one in for me.
Better make it two.
...
ZOOM
I'm on it!
VROOOOOH
Look at No. 100 Otoya amaguchi! He just passed up another car on the home straight to move into fourth!
Yamaguchi is flying now! Look at the rookie go!

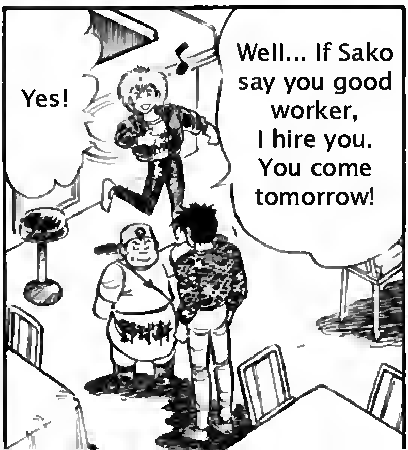
Hmm.
Uh-huh.

YAK
YAK
You Japanese?
YAK

Crimi-nals, no hire.
Please, Mr. Lo. He can wash dishes, or whatever you need.

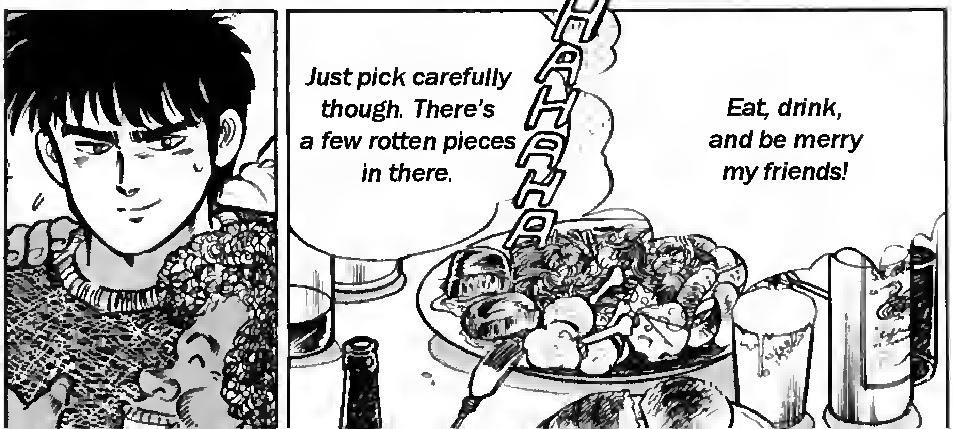

Murderers, drug dealers, terrorists. After I hire, they make trouble.
You've got a clean record, right?

No, silly!
New boyfriend, Sako?


Yes!
Well... If Sako say you good worker, I hire you. You come tomorrow!

For saving Peabow, it's the least I can do!
Thanks for doing all this.
...let's find you a place to live.
Now that you've scored a job...
...you don't mind.
I mean, that's if...
...
...
You know... You can stay at my place if you want.
Peabow would be so happy.
Uh-huh!
Congratulations, Gunma. Let's get the party started!
Sako, you're back! Did you find him a place to work?

YAK
You're one lucky bioke, Japanese guy.
YAK
YAK
I'm Morris. Nice to see you.
Everyone calls me "Mum," you can call me the same.
I'm Johnny. Well done with Peabow.
This man is a crazy driver. Ha ha ha...


Just pick carefully though. There's a few rotten pieces in there.
HACHAPURI
Eat, drink, and be merry my friends!

Yes! Show us a dance, Sako!
Dance for us, Sako! With the Japanese bloke!
You were the lonely one, Peabow!
Isn't this great, Sako? You won't be lonely anymore!
ドキッ!
GULP
Huh!?
Okay! Let's do it!
ハハハ
Just a cheek dance, silly!

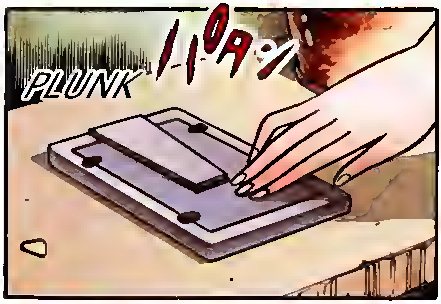
Pfft...
Err...
Let's leave these two love birds alone.
KACHUK
Work your magic, Sako.
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

They left us alone.
Hey, where is everybody?
...
Junko ...
Yuki...
SNIFF SNIFF
The smell of a woman... It's been a long time.
Best smell in the world.
I'm clean.
Make love to me if you want.

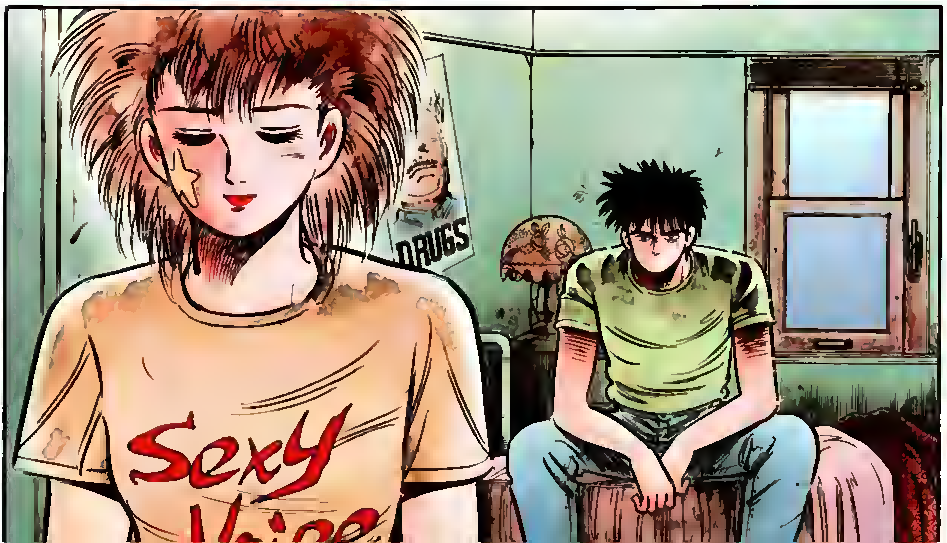
VOL.12

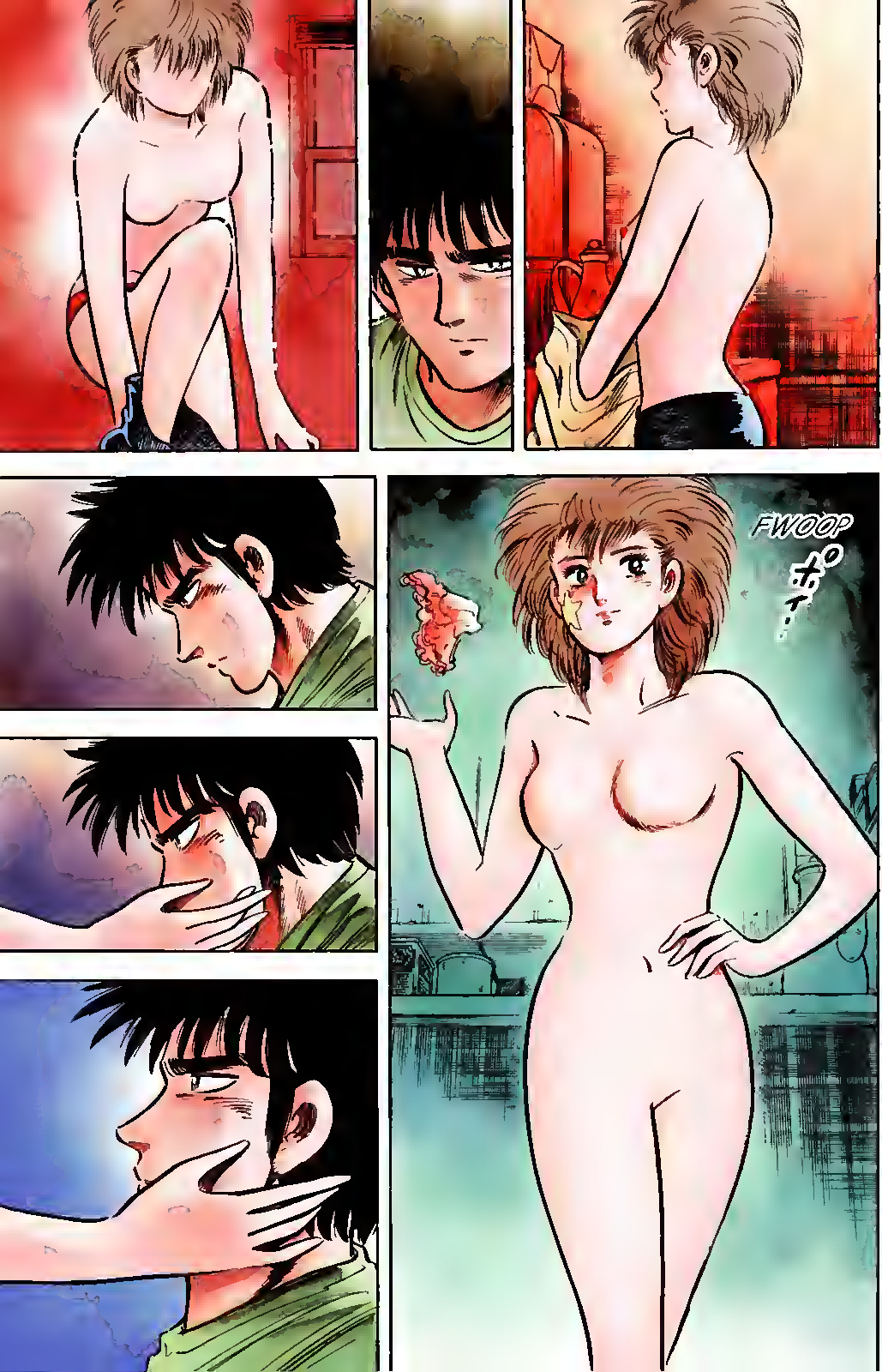
Chapter 9:
Attachment

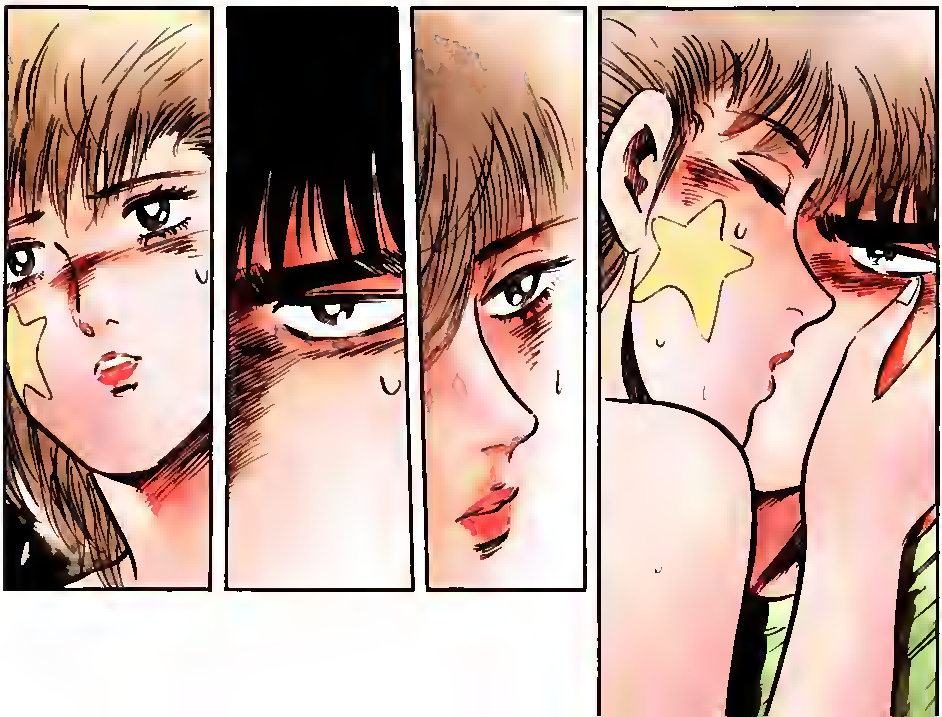
HIGH ST.
SE 21


PLUNK

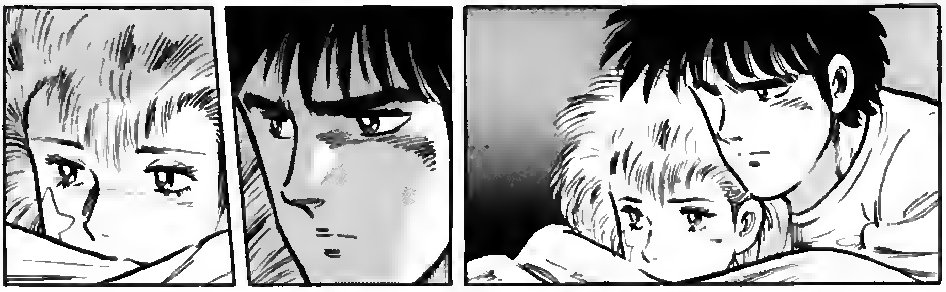
I'm sorry, George.

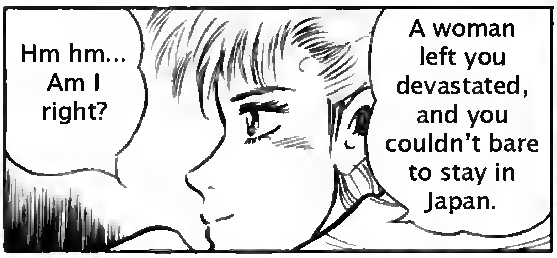

DRUGS
Sexy


FWOOP
ぺっ!

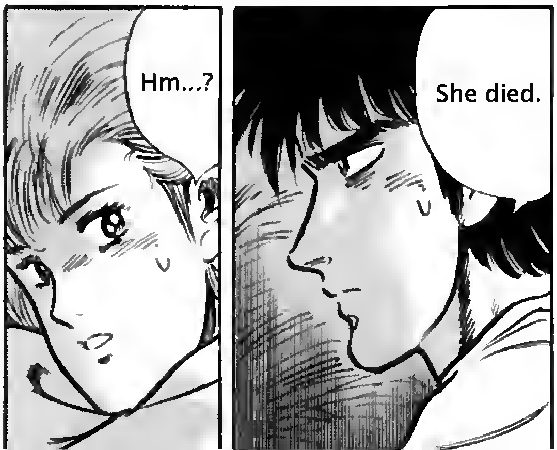


Sorry.
...
What's wrong?
...
...that my cock's gone weak.
You're so damn pretty...
Would you hold me?
I'm getting cold like this.




Hm hm... Am I right?
A woman left you devastated, and you couldn't bare to stay in Japan.

...
Why did you leave Japan?
A broken heart I'll bet!

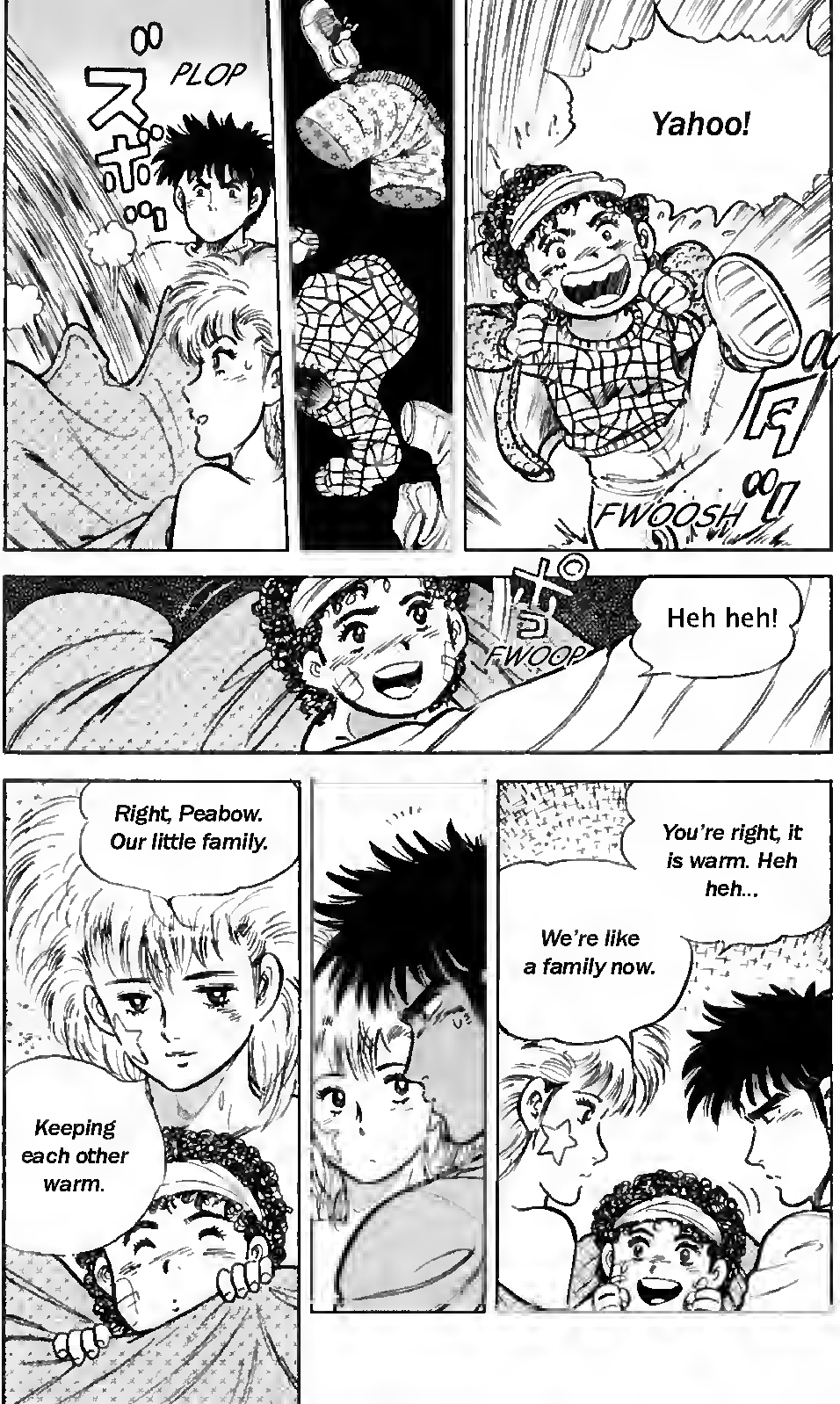

Hm...?
She died.

...
She up and died.
The girl I once loved.
So I left Japan for good.
HA HA HA
I'll go check on them.
SHOOP
Worried about Sako, are you?
Come warm yourself by the fire, Peabow!
HA HA HA HA

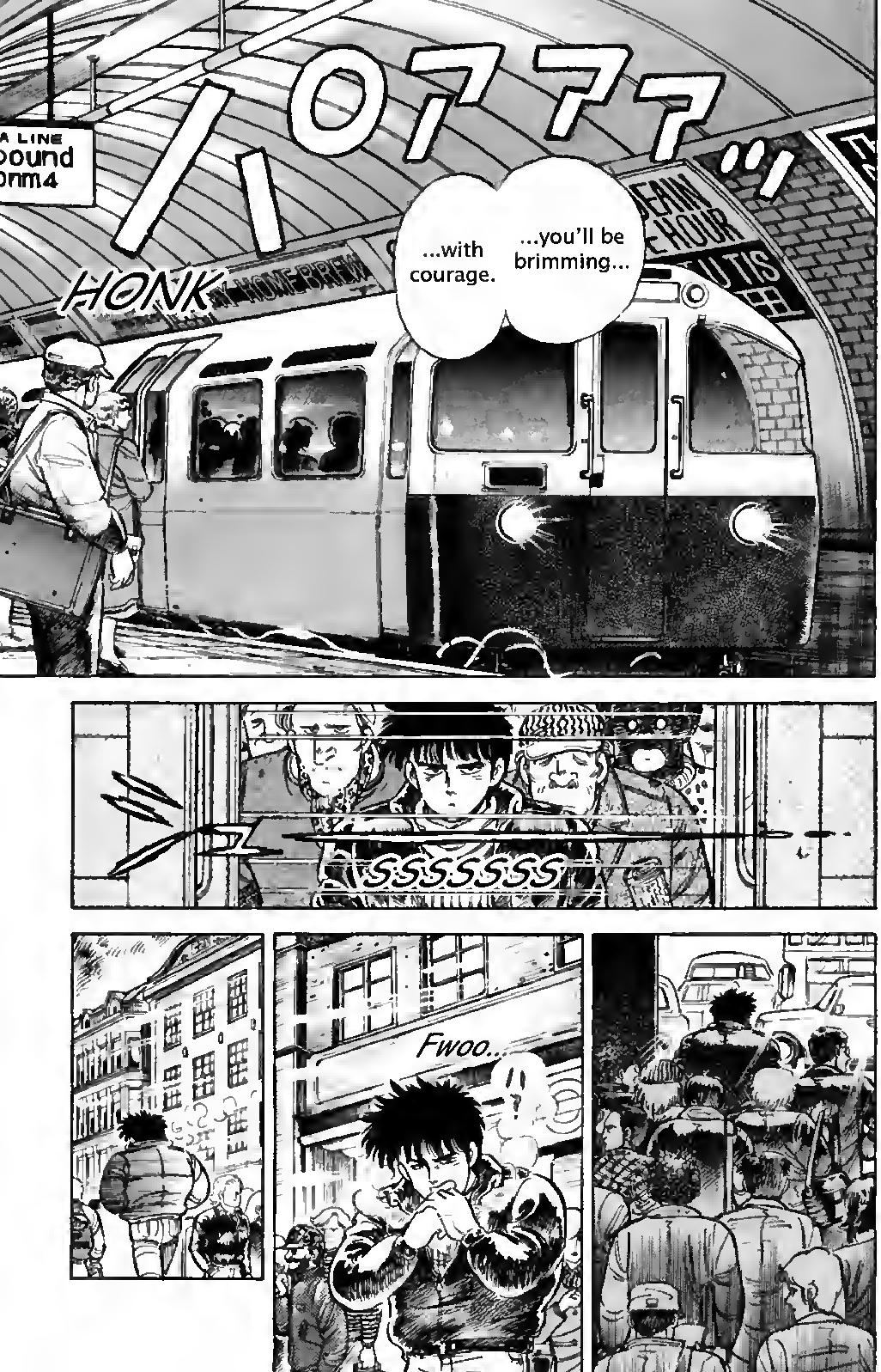
So you were a racer.
That explains your driving, that time with Peabow.
You still love her, don't you.
That woman Junko.
Yeah.
Well then...
...why are you giving up!?
I can see why Yuki's death has you in the dumps.
But things happen in life. You didn't know, and Yuki realized that.
It's over.
My life is done there.
But...

Keep Yuki on my mind.
So now it's my turn to think of her.
For three years straight.
I went to Tokyo, and Yuki was the furthest thing from my mind.
But she had me in her thoughts that whole time.
You've got a tender heart.
...
...for a while at least.
Her and only her...
カチャ
KACHUK
Sako?
PEEK

Pfft
...
I was just a bit worried, that's all.
Oops! Didn't mean to impose!
I'll be leaving now, so carry on you two!
Up...?
It's fine. He can't even get it up.
But I don't wanna interrupt.
Get in here, Peabow. It must be cold outside.
Come on, kid.
Just get over here, Peabow. It's nice and warm!
It's really okay?
Are you sure?

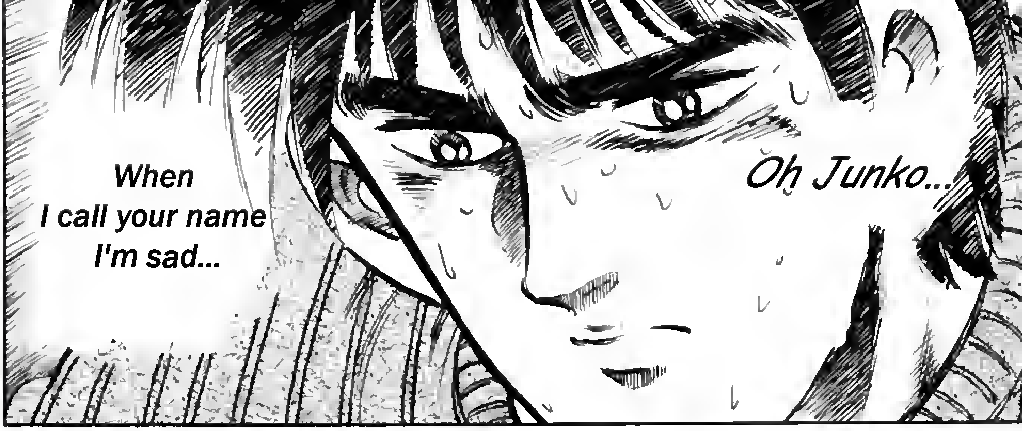

PLOP
Yahoo!
FWOOSH
FWOOP
Heh heh!
Right, Peabow. Our little family.
Keeping each other warm.
You're right, it is warm. Heh heh...
We're like a family now.

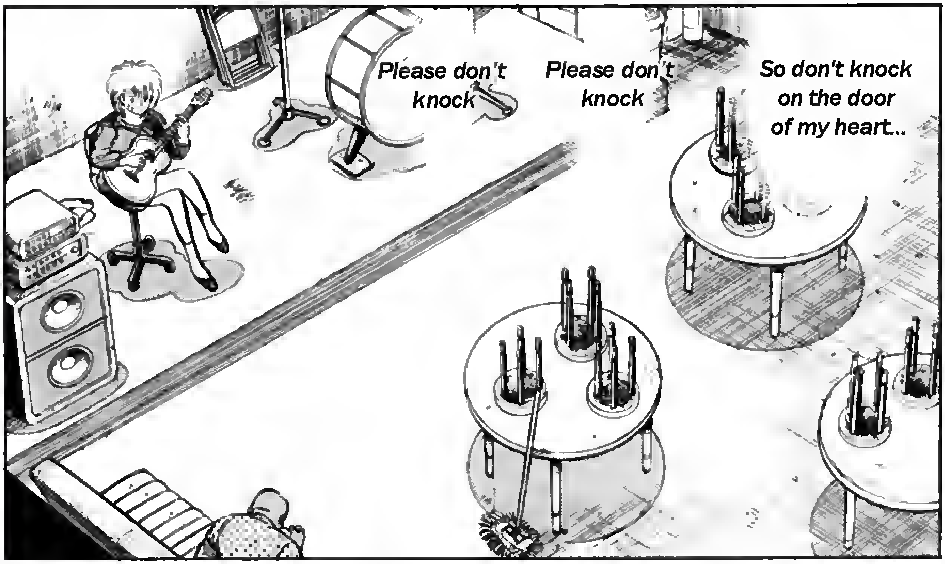
Stay with us, Gunma.
Just the three of us can live together.
Just you, me and Peabow.
We'll keep each other warm, living the slow life together.
And then...
...if we can do that, I know...

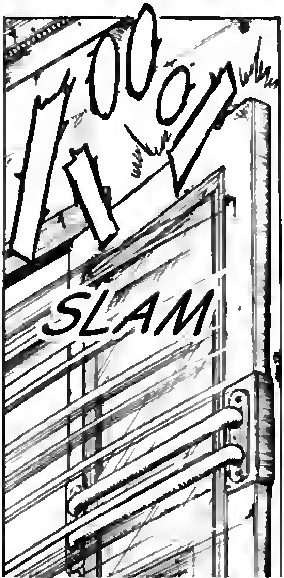

A LINE
bound
orm4
HONK
...with courage.
...you'll be brimming...
SSSSSSS
Fwoo...

I feel like singing.
Odd seeing you here so early, Sako. Don't you go on stage at five?
HELLO
VEEEN
I'll sing a Japanese song, by Tsuyoshi Nagabuchi.
No rock today.
You're quite the little rocker, aren't you. Ha ha ha...
I won't leave, I won't let go, I don't want to let you go...
Interesting. Let's hear it.

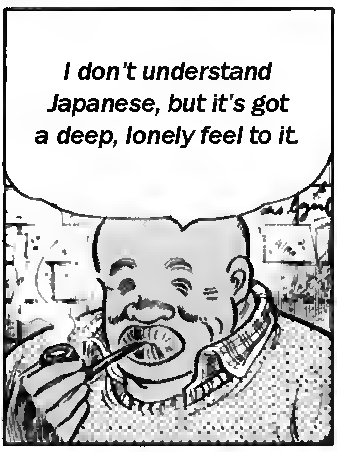
Rrgh!
And the thread that connected our hearts just broke with a snap.
It's the end, everything is over, my self-righteous ways...
Though I've told you of my love in so many words...
But goes nowhere, clattering...
Gentleness is always before me...
When I call your name I'm in pain...
Oh Junko...


When
I call your name
I'm sad...
Oh Junko...


Please don't knock
Please don't knock
So don't knock on the door of my heart...


SLAM

Do you hate me?
You hate me like this, don't you?


I don't understand Japanese, but it's got a deep, lonely feel to it.

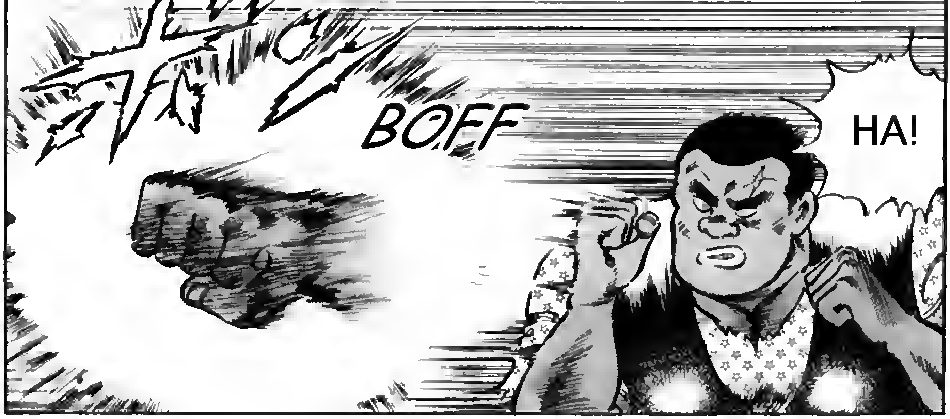
Oy! There you are, Sako! You're living with a man again, aren't you!
And this one can't even get it up! You really added insult to injury with that!

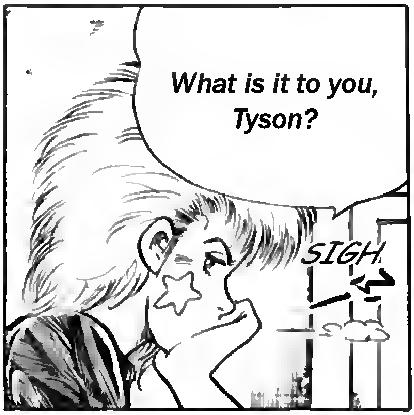
Tyson...

F
VOL.12

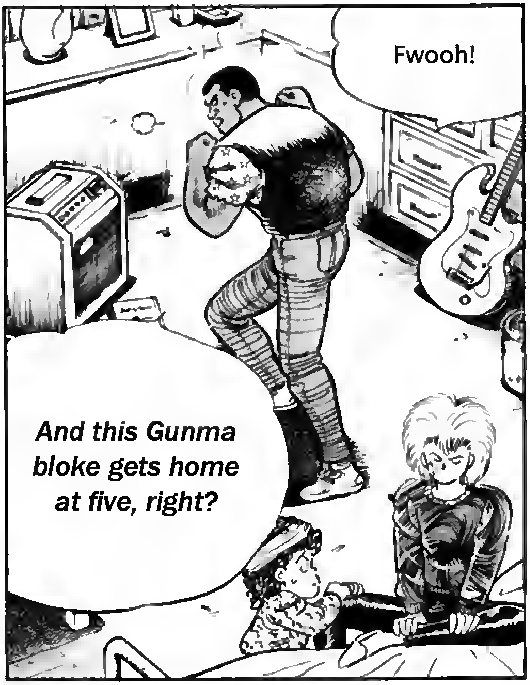
Chapter 10:
The Fighter

GRRR
POP
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO
FWOO


BOFF
HA!


What is it to you, Tyson?
SIGH

I'll show you what happens when he lays his hands on another man's missus!


Fwooh!
And this Gunma bloke gets home at five, right?

Sako!

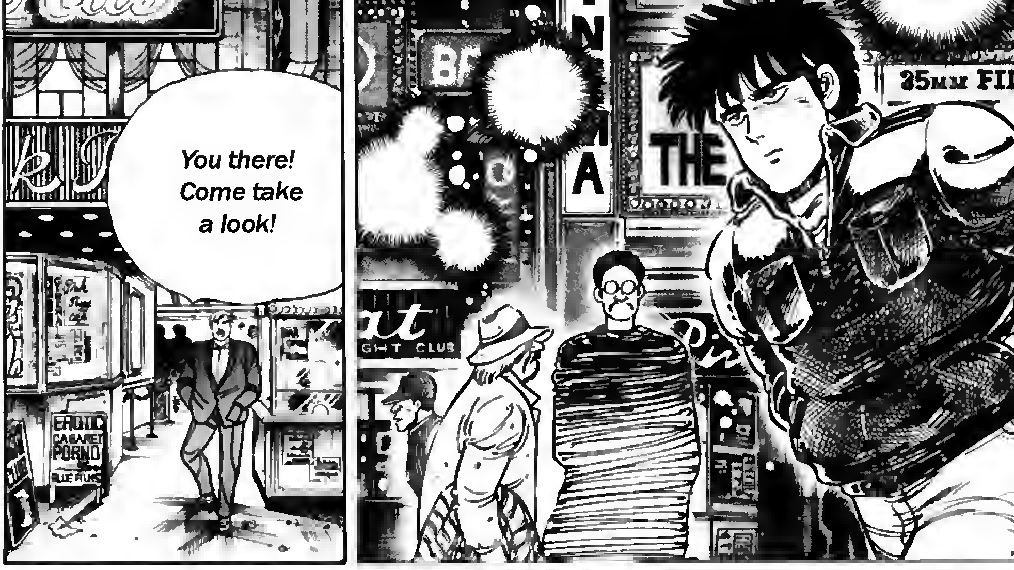
Would you stop? I'm nobody's missus!

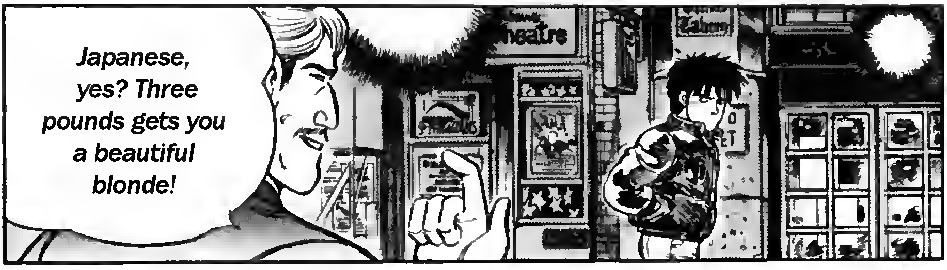
Do I have to say "no" for the millionth time?
Just give in and be my woman! You know you want it!
Fine.

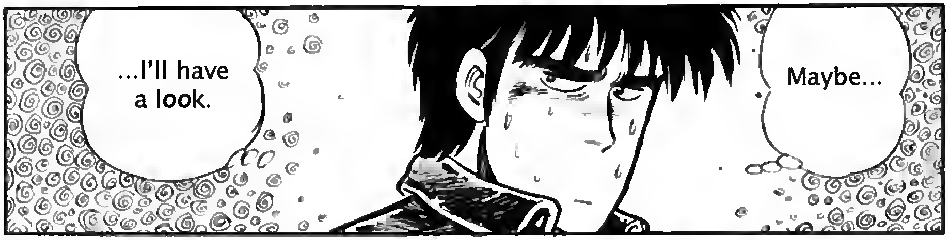
In the meantime, I'll make mincemeat of any wanker who tries to get jiggy with you.
I've got lots of time.
I'm a charmer, but it takes time to acquire a taste for me.

Peabow, go play outside.
But Sako...
...
Just like poor old Georgie Boy! Ha ha ha!

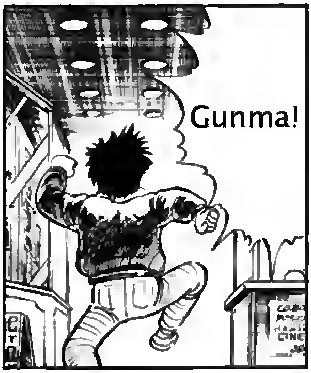
Beat it, Peabow! Kids should mind their elders!
And tell Gunma not to come home!
Just go!
NOD
Gunma...!
KACHUK


You there! Come take a look!
EROTIC CABARET PORNO
BLUE FILMS
35MM FI
THE
GHT CLUB

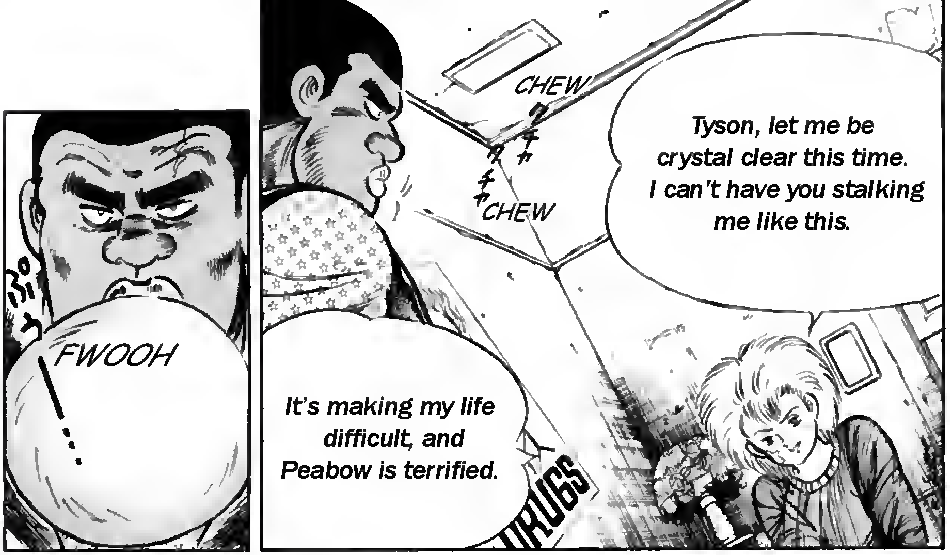

Japanese, yes? Three pounds gets you a beautiful blonde!
heatre


...I'll have a look.
Maybe...

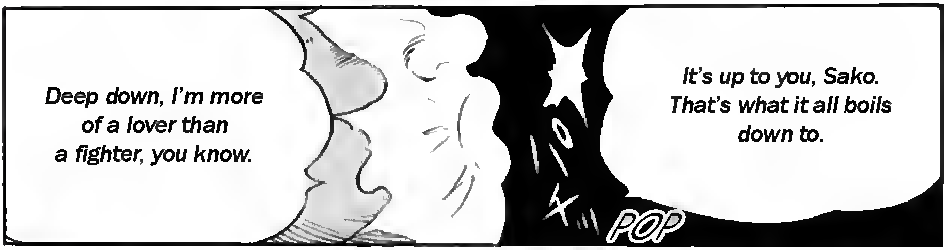
You scared me half to death, kid!
Geez Peabow!


Gunma!

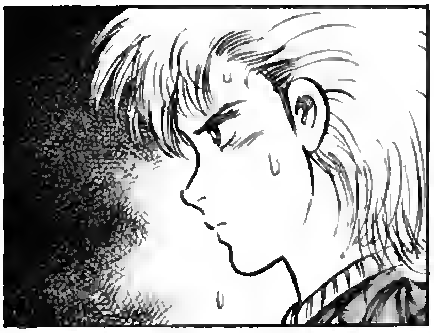
Have some of this.
What are you so nervous about?
What should we do?
For now.
Stay away from the apartment.
What is it?
MUNCH
I've been looking for you.
I need to tell you some-thing.
...
もぐもぐ
MUNCH MUNCH
Sako's boyfriend is back.
How come?
...
I get it. I'll stay out of their way.
Oh yeah?

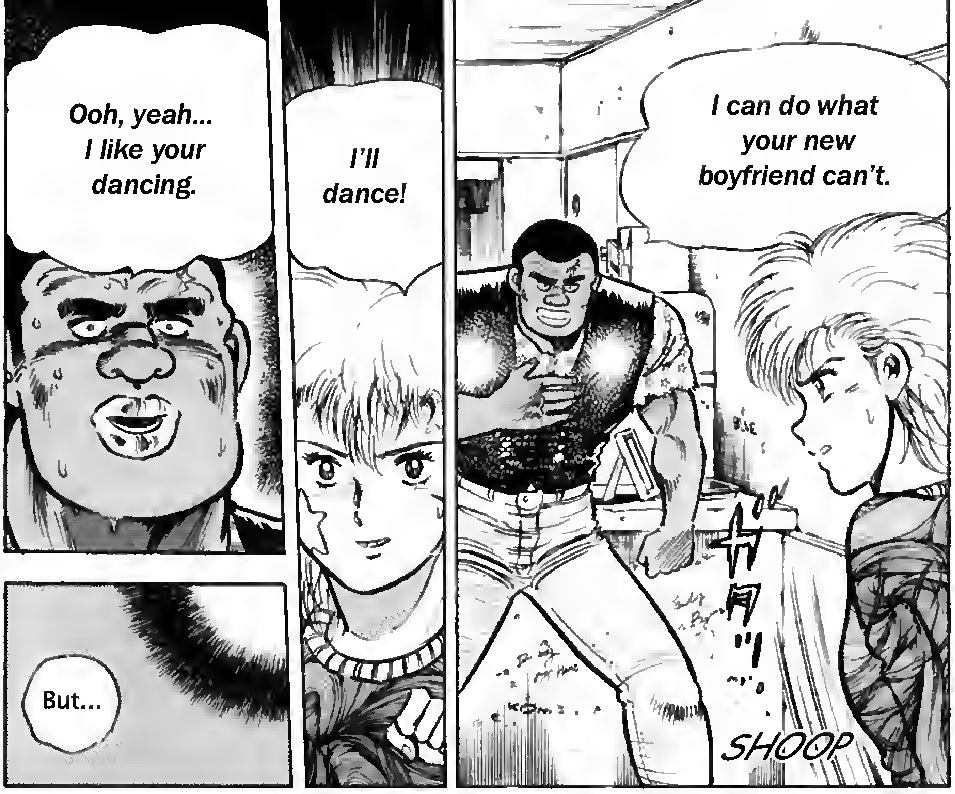

FWOOH
It's making my life difficult, and Peabow is terrified.
CHEW
CHEW
Tyson, let me be crystal clear this time. I can't have you stalking me like this.
DRUGS

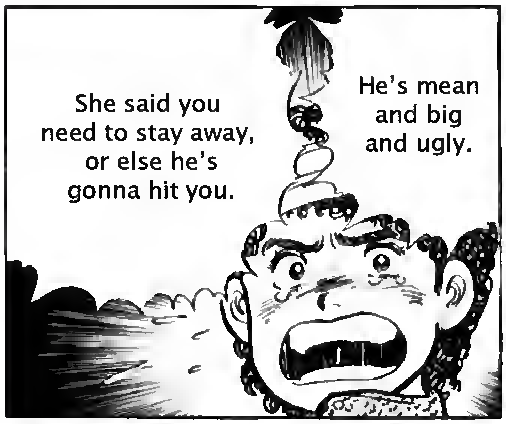
...and made the last one piss blood.
Even did some jail time for that.
I was fighting over something stupid a couple weeks ago.
I smacked down three blokes, shattered one's jaw, broke one's nose...


Deep down, I'm more of a lover than a fighter, you know.
It's up to you, Sako. That's what it all boils down to.
POP

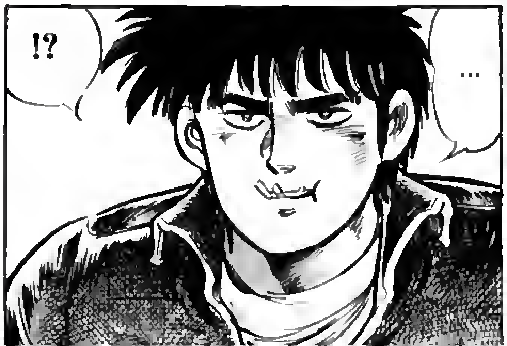
ねちゃ
REEL
Take off those clothes, Sako.
You know you want it.

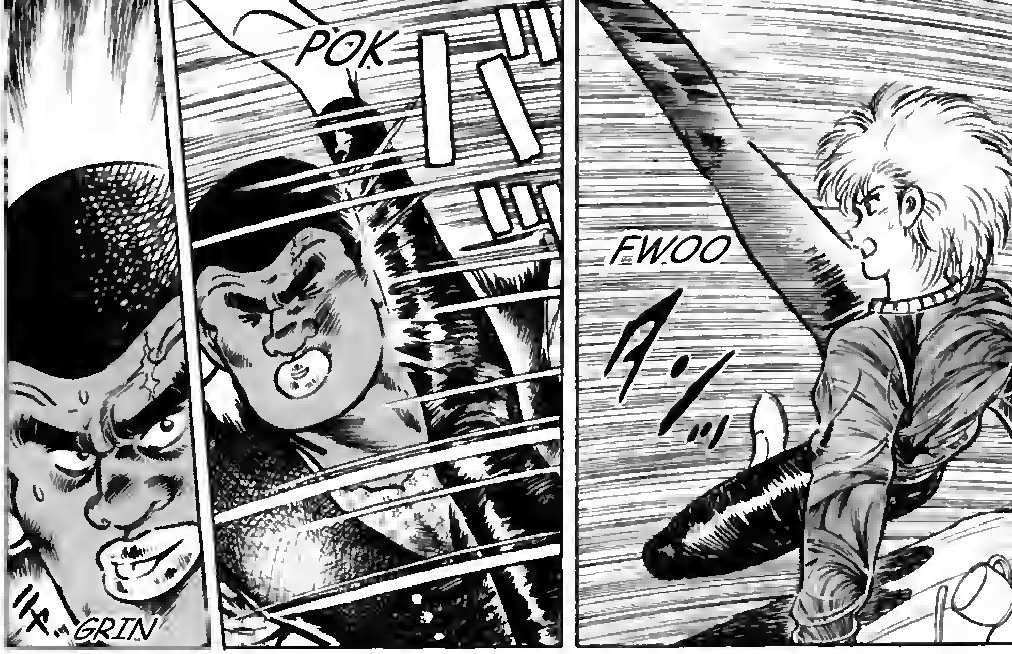



Ooh, yeah... I like your dancing.
I'll dance!
I can do what your new boyfriend can't.
But...
SHOOP


She said you need to stay away, or else he's gonna hit you.
He's mean and big and ugly.

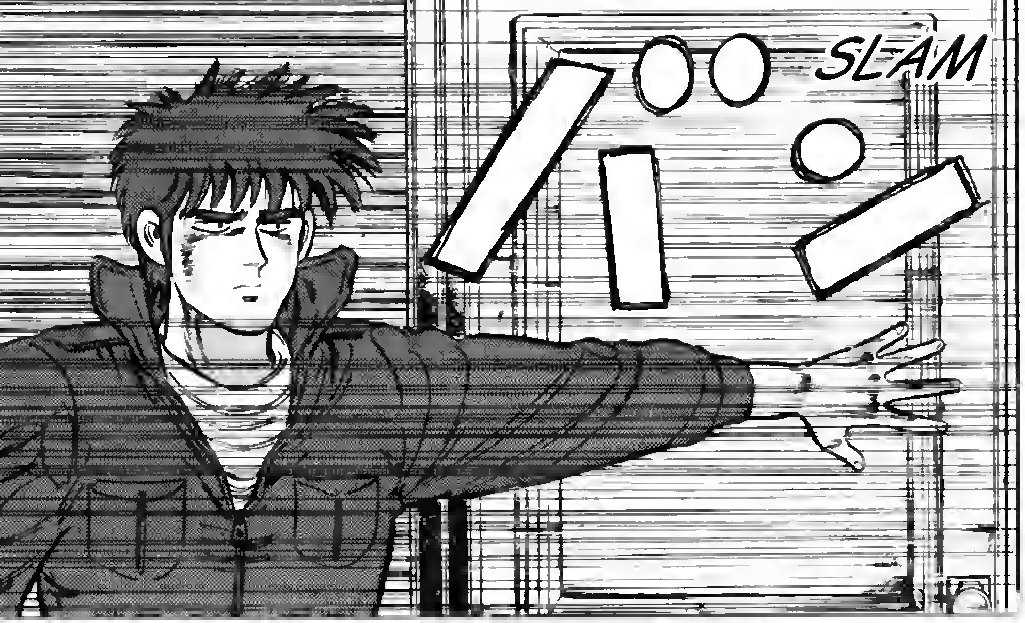
But Gunma...
Sako doesn't like that boy-friend!


!?
...

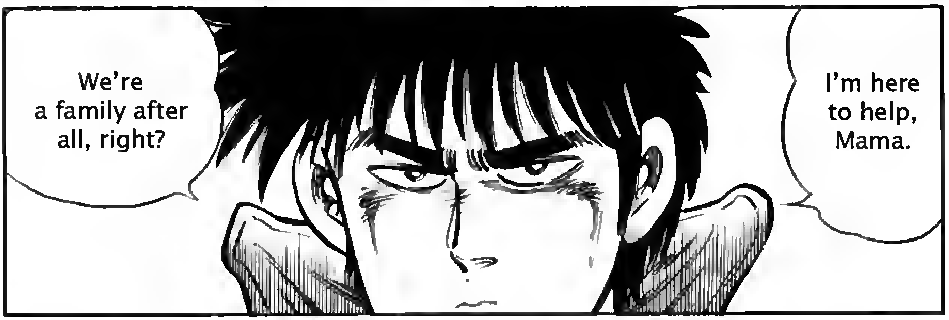

POK
FWOO
GRIN

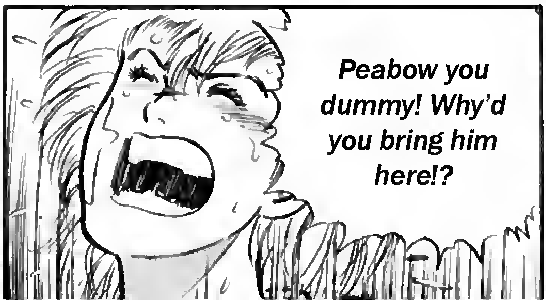
Slurp
...

No! Let
go of me!
THUNK

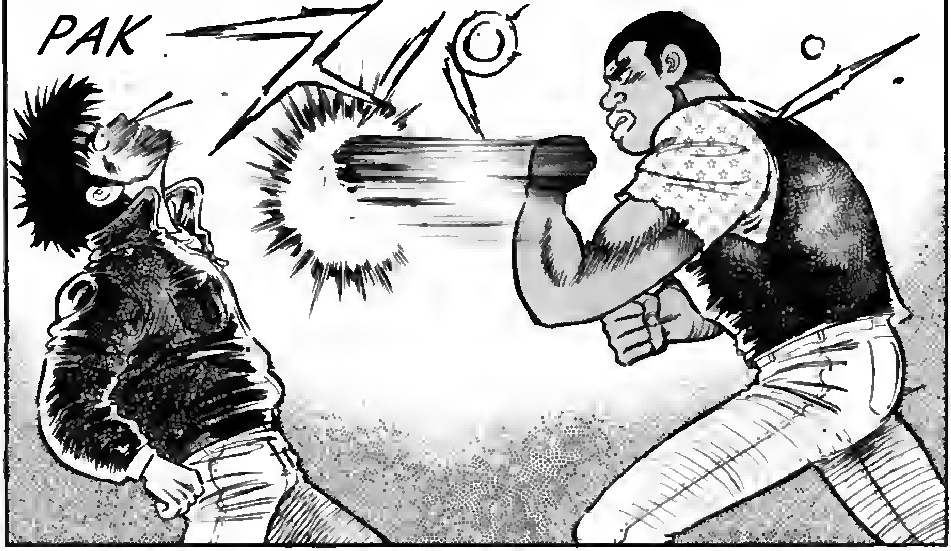

SLAM

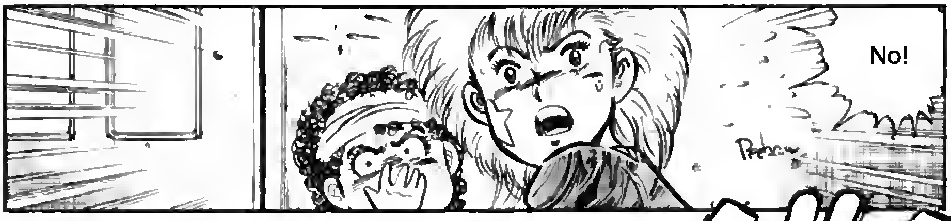
GLARE
No Gunma! Get out of here!

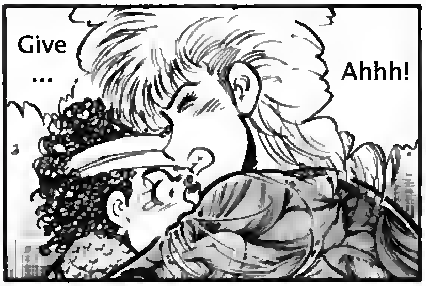

We're a family after all, right?
I'm here to help, Mama.


Peabow you dummy! Why'd you bring him here!?

Awesome!


PAK


No!


Give ...
Ahhh!

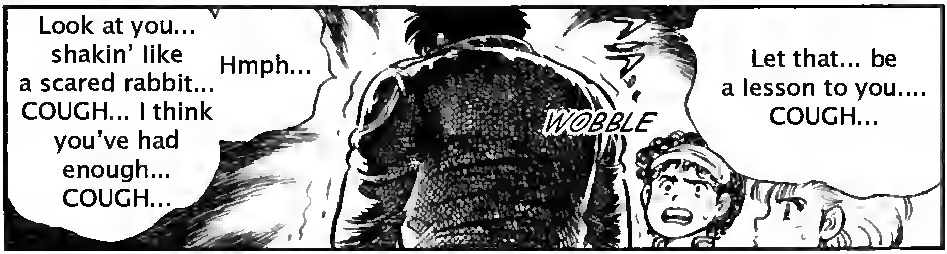
BAM

...

Give him hell, Dad!

SOCK
Peace dude.
Pe...
That's enough, Tyson! Just stop it!
KRASH
NO!!
Step aside, Sako.
Why don't you pick on someone your own size for once, you big coward!
This man is a race car driver, not a washed-up boxer like you!

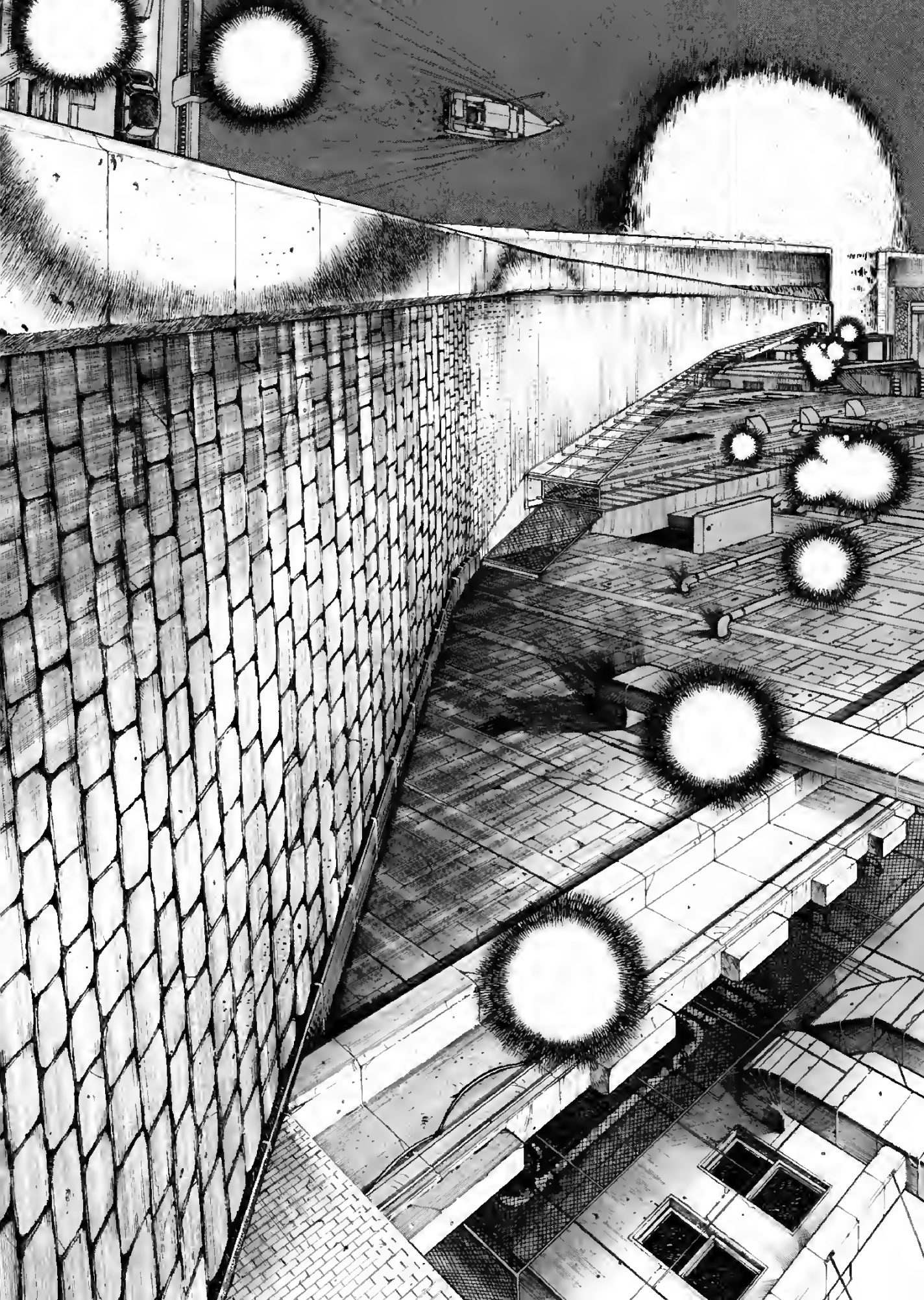
URGH
No! Get outta here, you jerk!
Why are you protecting this piece of rubbish!? I said move!

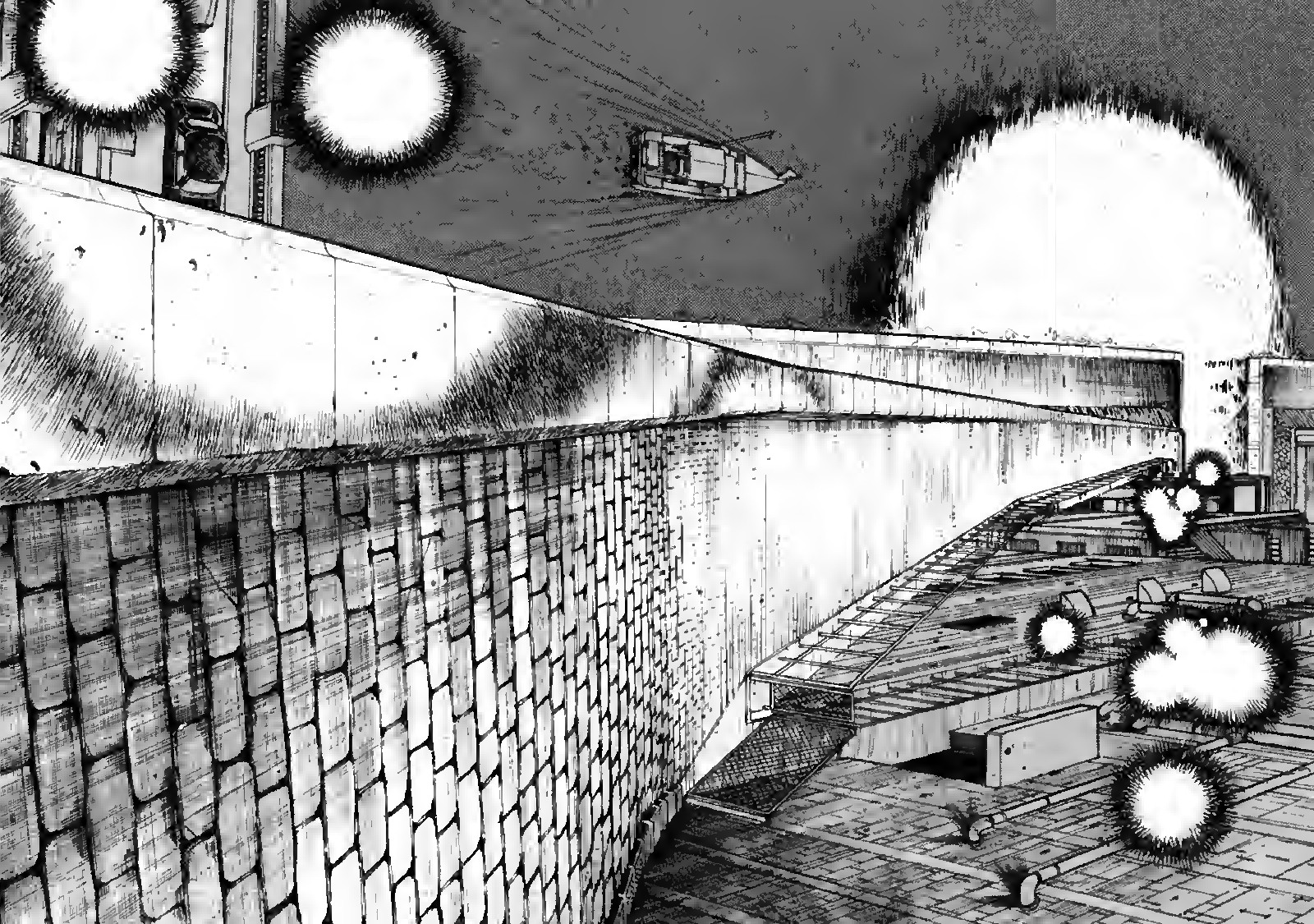

Look at you... shakin' like a scared rabbit... COUGH... I think you've had enough... COUGH...
Hmph...
WOBBLE
Let that... be a lesson to you.... COUGH...

...
...

Got it!?
If you wanna live, get the hell outta here!
WOOSH

Tyson!
I've got the perfect place for you, racer.
So you're a racer.
Very interesting.
I just want to see him drive, that's all. He's a racer, isn't he?
What are you doing to him!? That's enough!
Gunma!
Tyson...
Please stop...

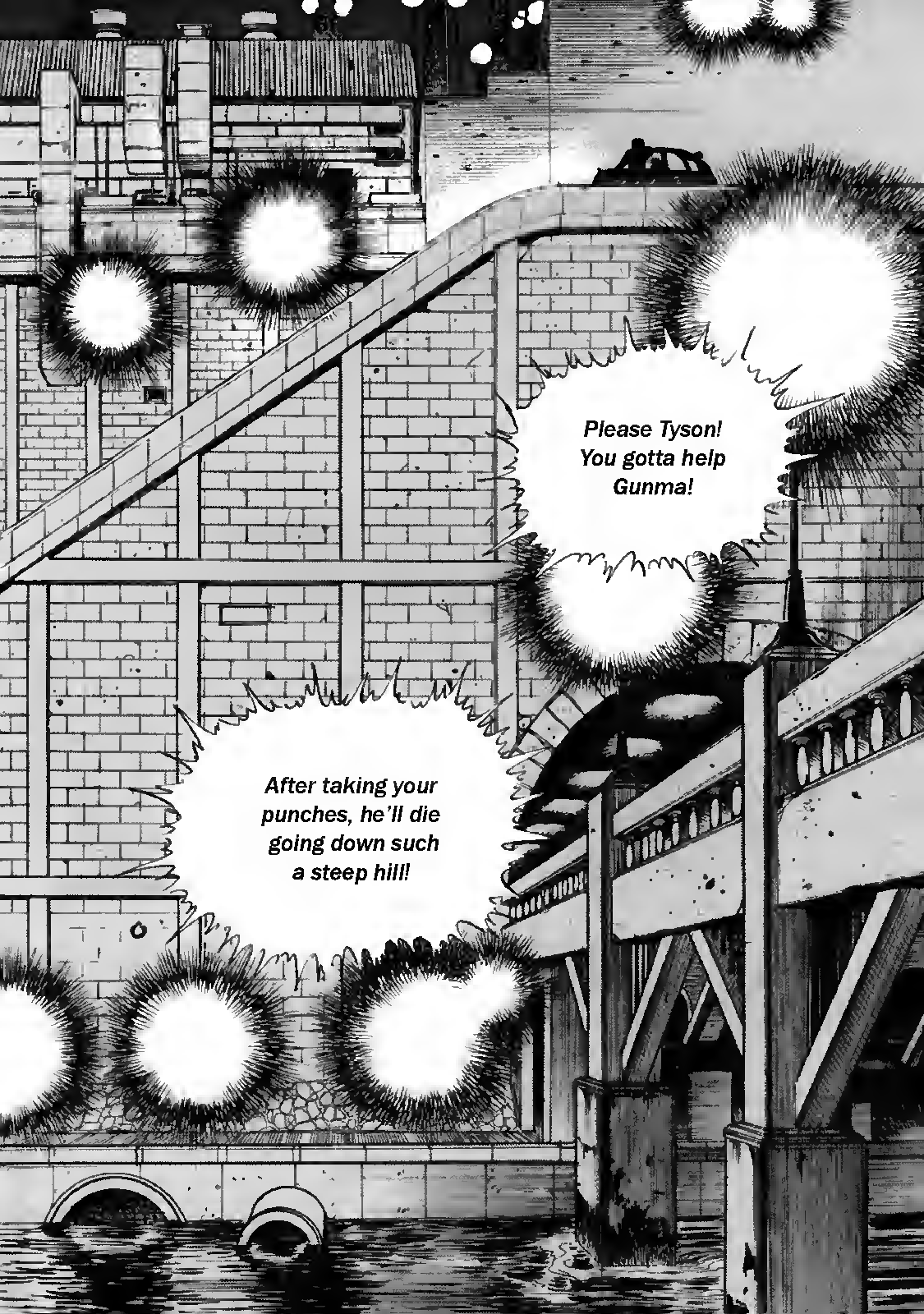


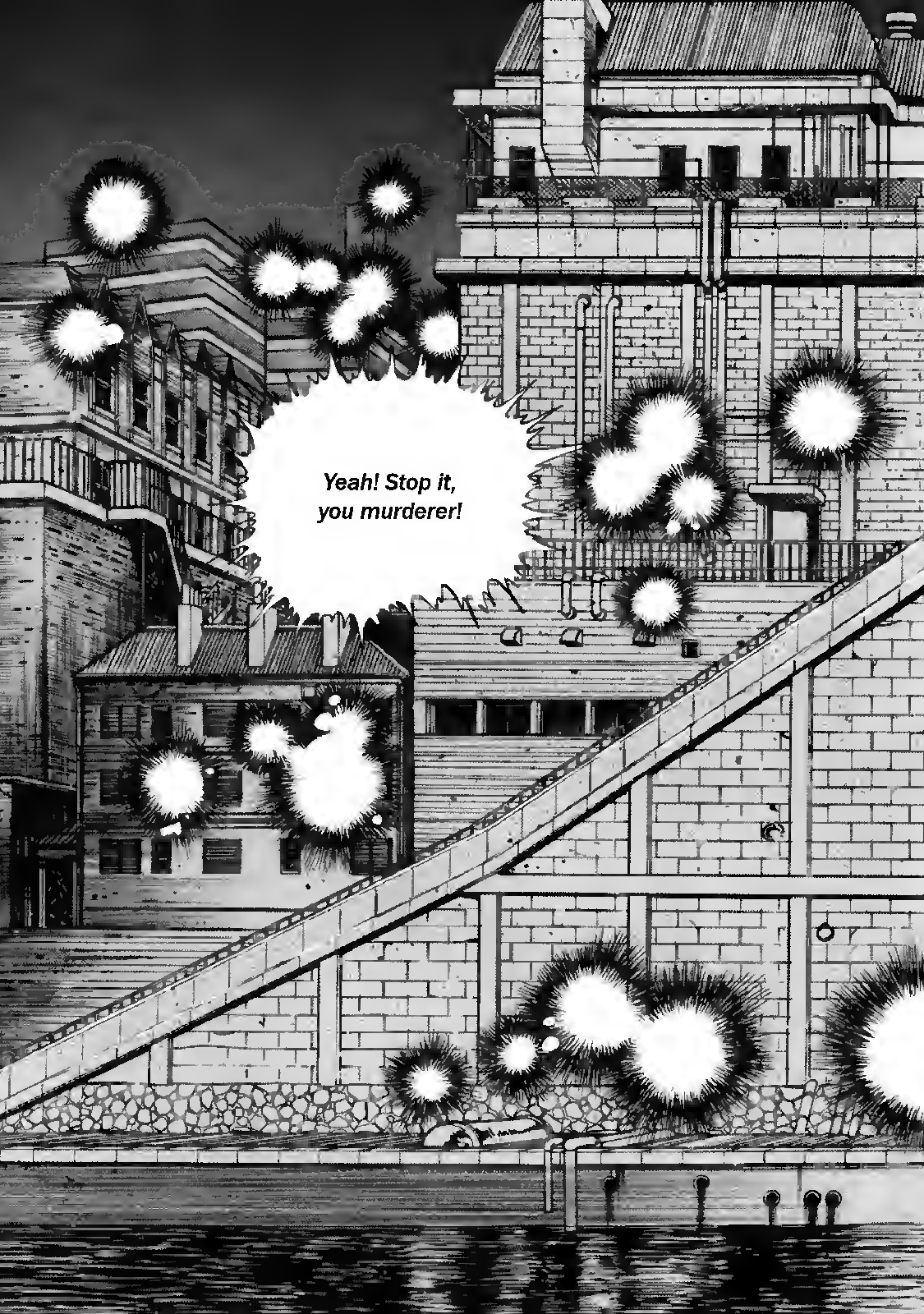


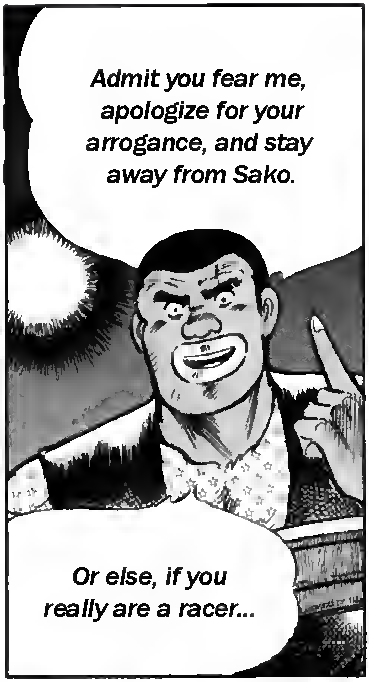
Take her at full speed mate, out towards the river.
I've tied your hands to the wheel so you've got a nice grip on things.
And your foot is bound too, pedal to the metal, innit?
Stop it, Tyson! You're gonna kill him!
Gunma!
Choose wisely!
So which is it? Would you like to follow the fishies to hell tonight?
Or apologize to me, and leave this city?

Chapter 11 :
Full Throttle

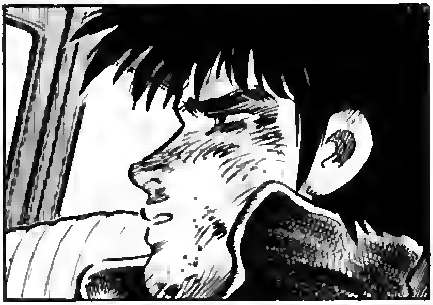
Yeah! Stop it, you murderer!
Please Tyson! You gotta help Gunma!
After taking your punches, he'll die going down such a steep hill!


Please Tyson! You gotta help Gunma!
After taking your punches, he'll die going down such a steep hill!


Yeah! Stop it,
you murderer!


Admit you fear me, apologize for your arrogance, and stay away from Sako.
Or else, if you really are a racer...

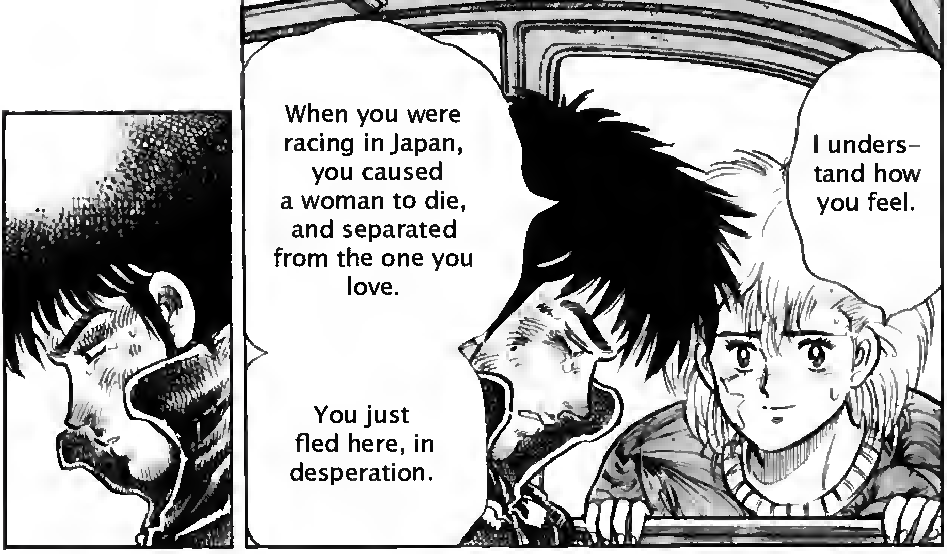
It's all up to him whether this car stops or goes!

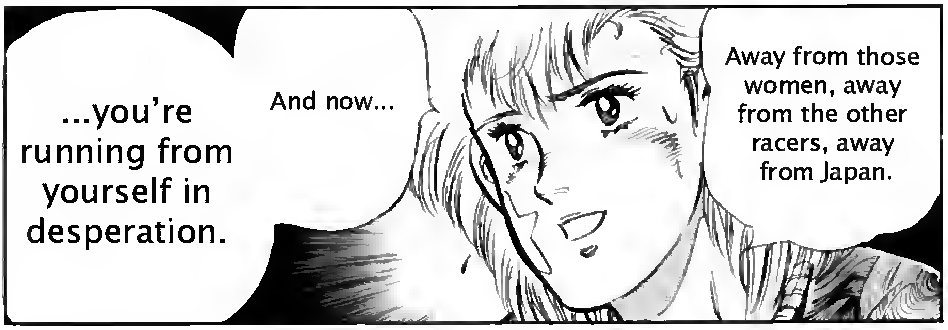


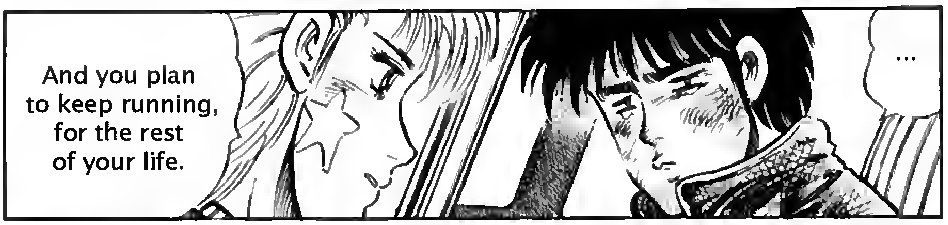
Pick your poison, mate!

...show some courage and brave this hill!

I'm through with that.
Tell him no, Sako. Tell him no.
He said if you're really a racer, you'll brave this hill.
Sako... What did that muscle-bound piece of trash just say?
I'm through!
Get me outta this damn car!
Get me out of here!
Peabow's accident was an exception. I'm fed up with driving.
I'm through with driving.
Now make him promise to stay away from you!
Looks like he's had enough.
...
Cut me some slack here.
I never want to touch a steering wheel again...

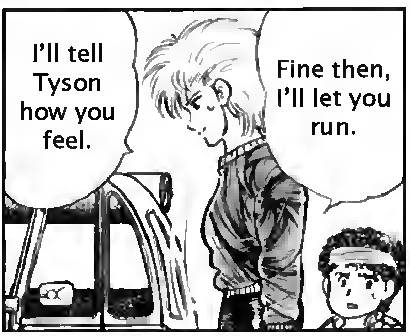

When you were racing in Japan, you caused a woman to die, and separated from the one you love.
You just fled here, in desperation.
I understand how you feel.


...you're running from yourself in desperation.
And now...
Away from those women, away from the other racers, away from Japan.


And you plan to keep running, for the rest of your life.
...

...

Sako...


I'll tell Tyson how you feel.
Fine then, I'll let you run.

KACHUK
Yeah? He really said that?

!?
Tyson, launch the bloody car down this hill! He said it's nothing for him!

He'll be fine, Peabow.

Sako, are you sure it's okay!? He's gonna die! Gunma's gonna die!

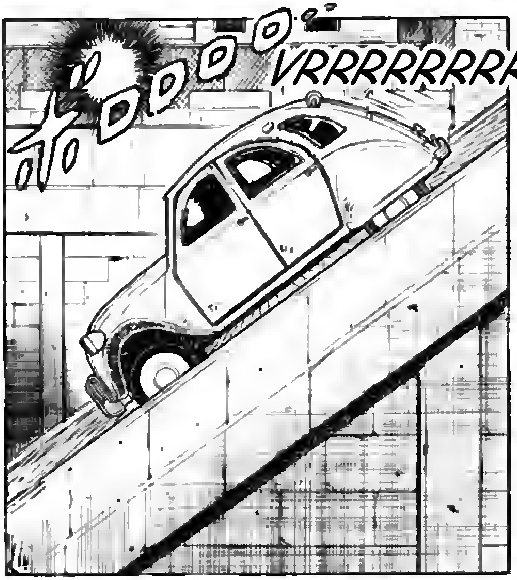
ROLLL
GOO

Sayonara, mate.
KACHUK
If he wants to run...

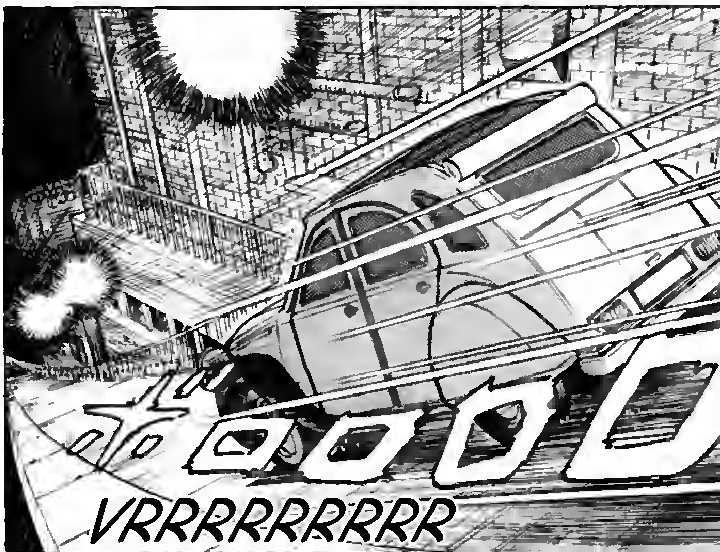
He can run his way to the afterlife for all I care!

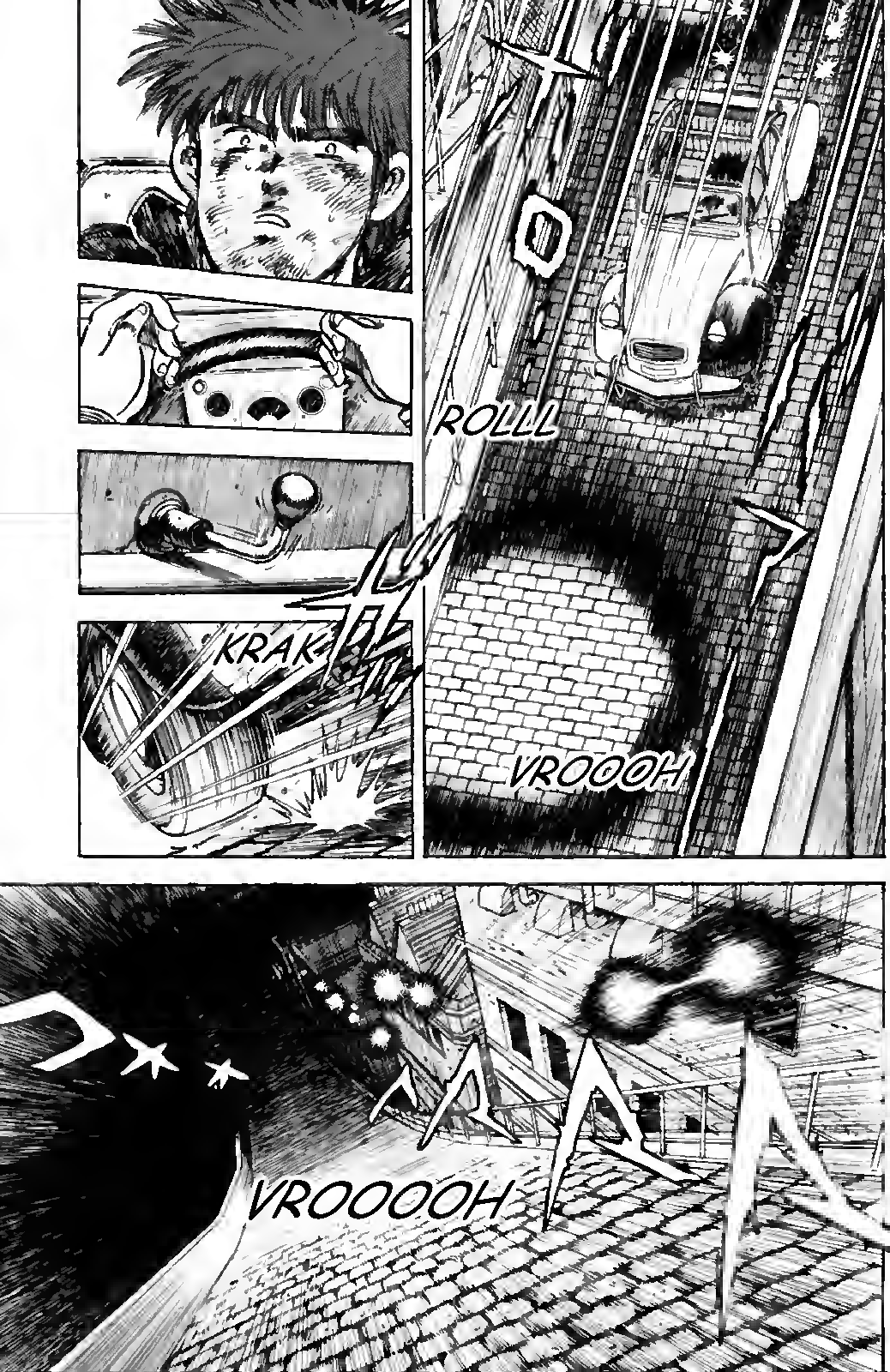
Hm...?

Gunma...


VRRRRRRRRR

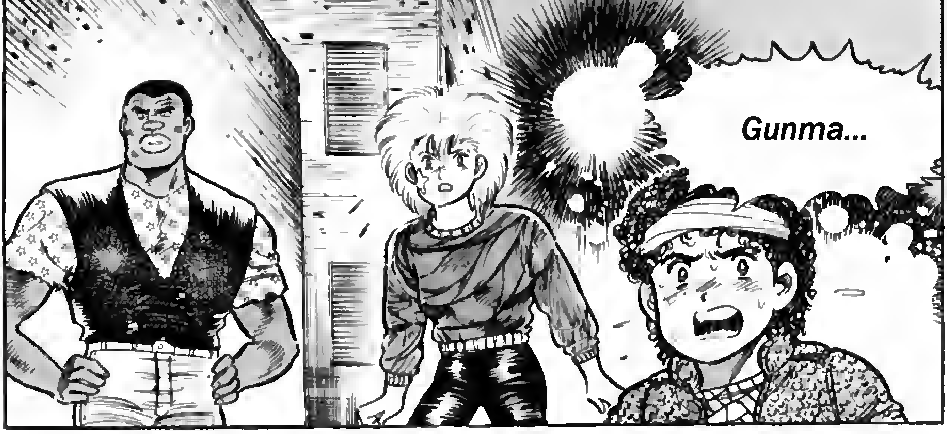
Hey...

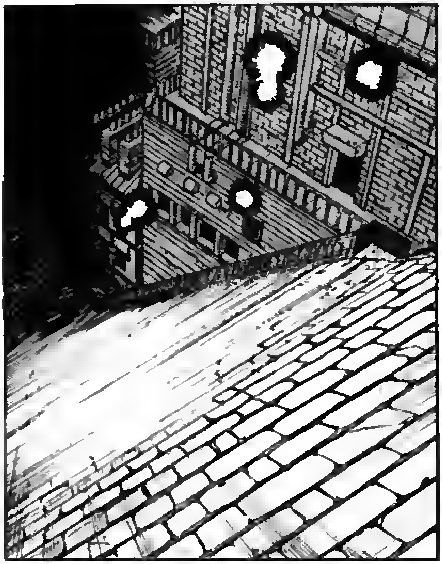

VRRRRRRRRR

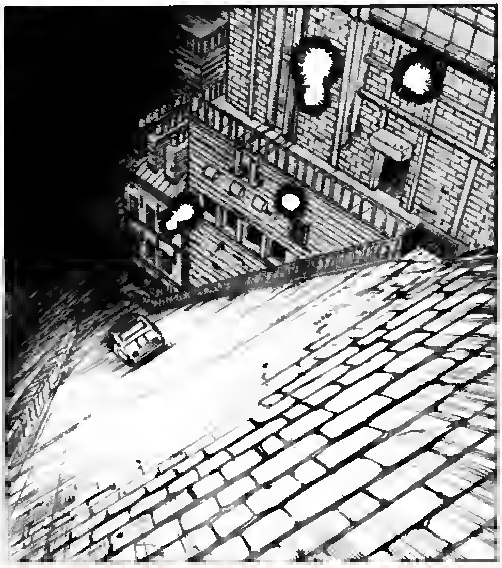

ROLLL
KRAK
VROOOH
VROOOOH

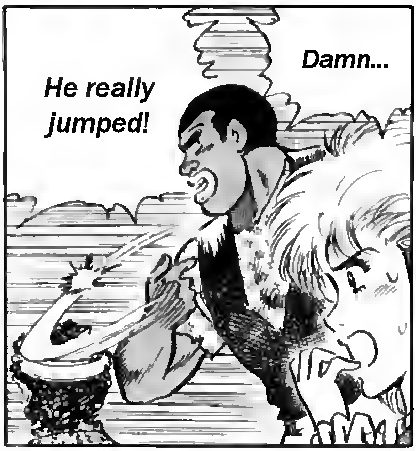
VWOOOOSH

Yuki...
Tamotsu...
Junko...
VREHHHH
Hijiri...
Kuroi...
Yuma...
Granny...
BUBUNK
Dad...
Momma...


Gunma...

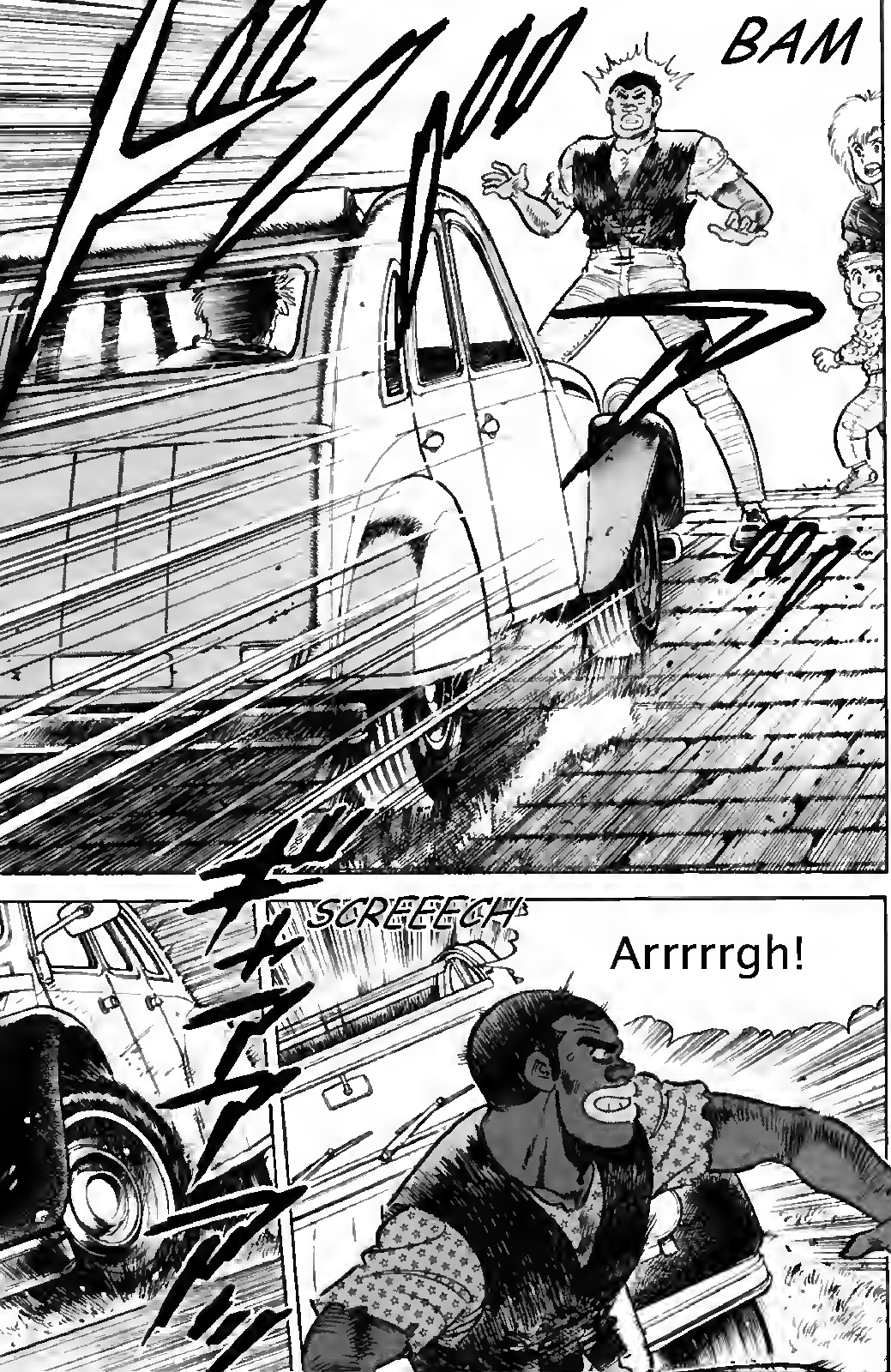




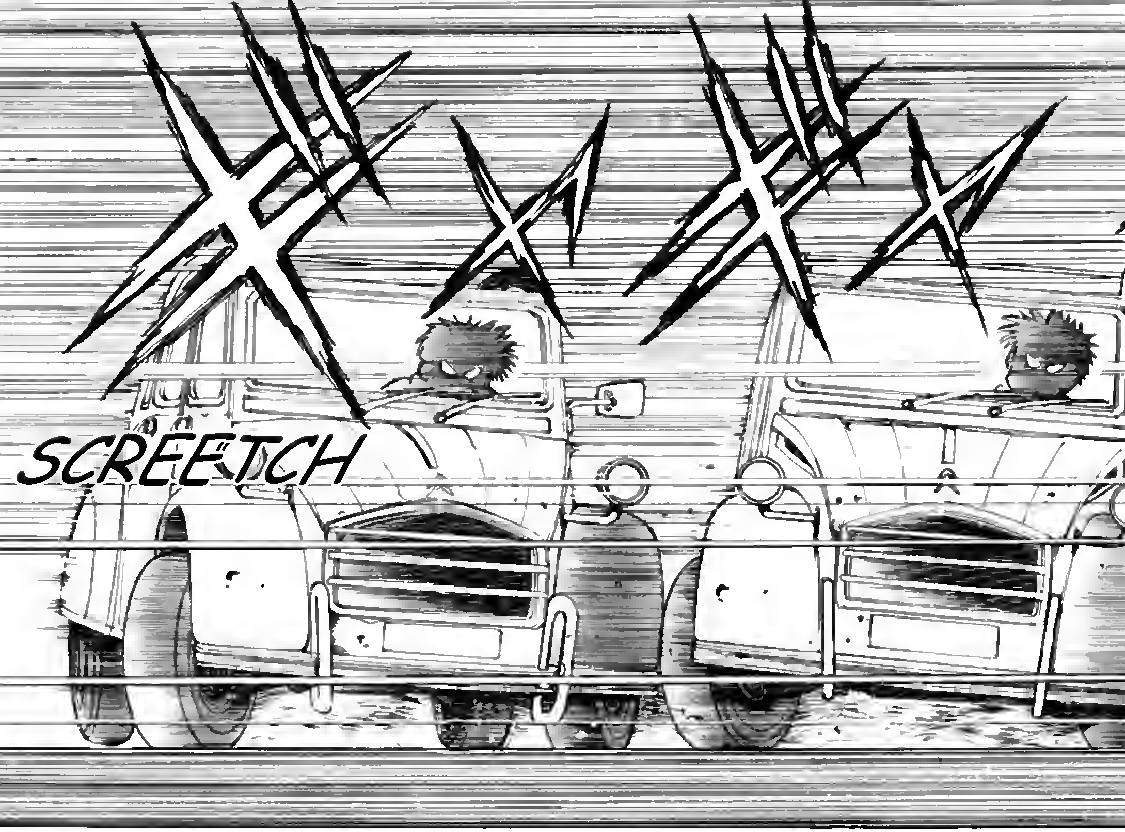

He really jumped!
Damn...

SPLASH!
SNIFF
?
?

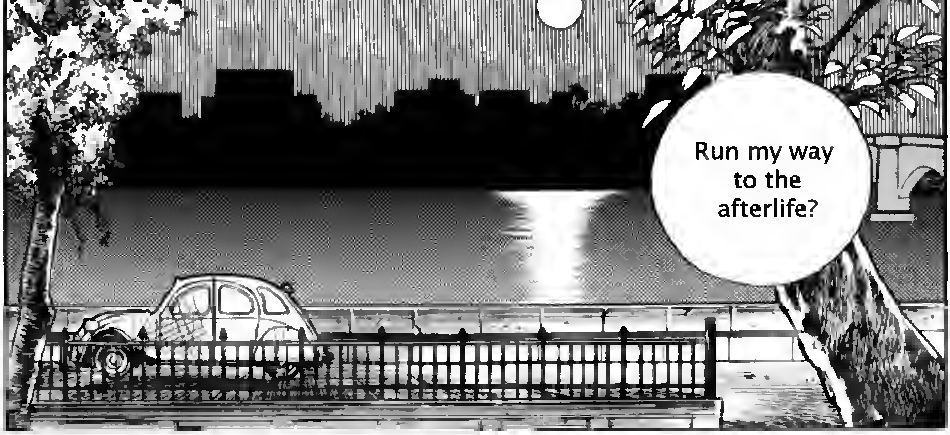
VRRRRRRRR
Hya!
And I mean nobo-dy...
Nobo-dy...
What the...
Whoa!

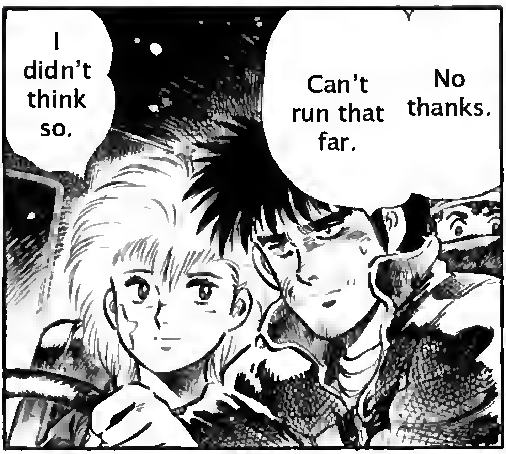

BAM
SCREECH
Arrrrrgh!

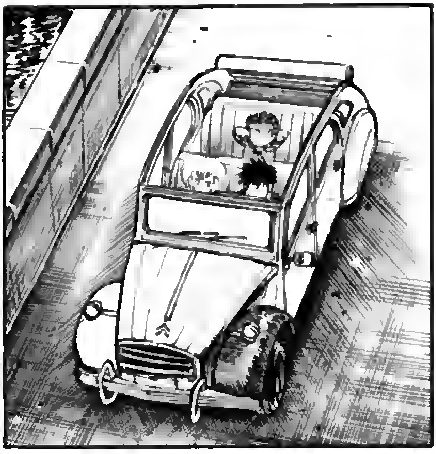
SCREET
Woo-hoo!
Get in, you two.
GLARE


SCREETCH

He... he came back... from the depths of hell...
See that, Tyson!? Never mess with us again!
SLUMP
SHOOM

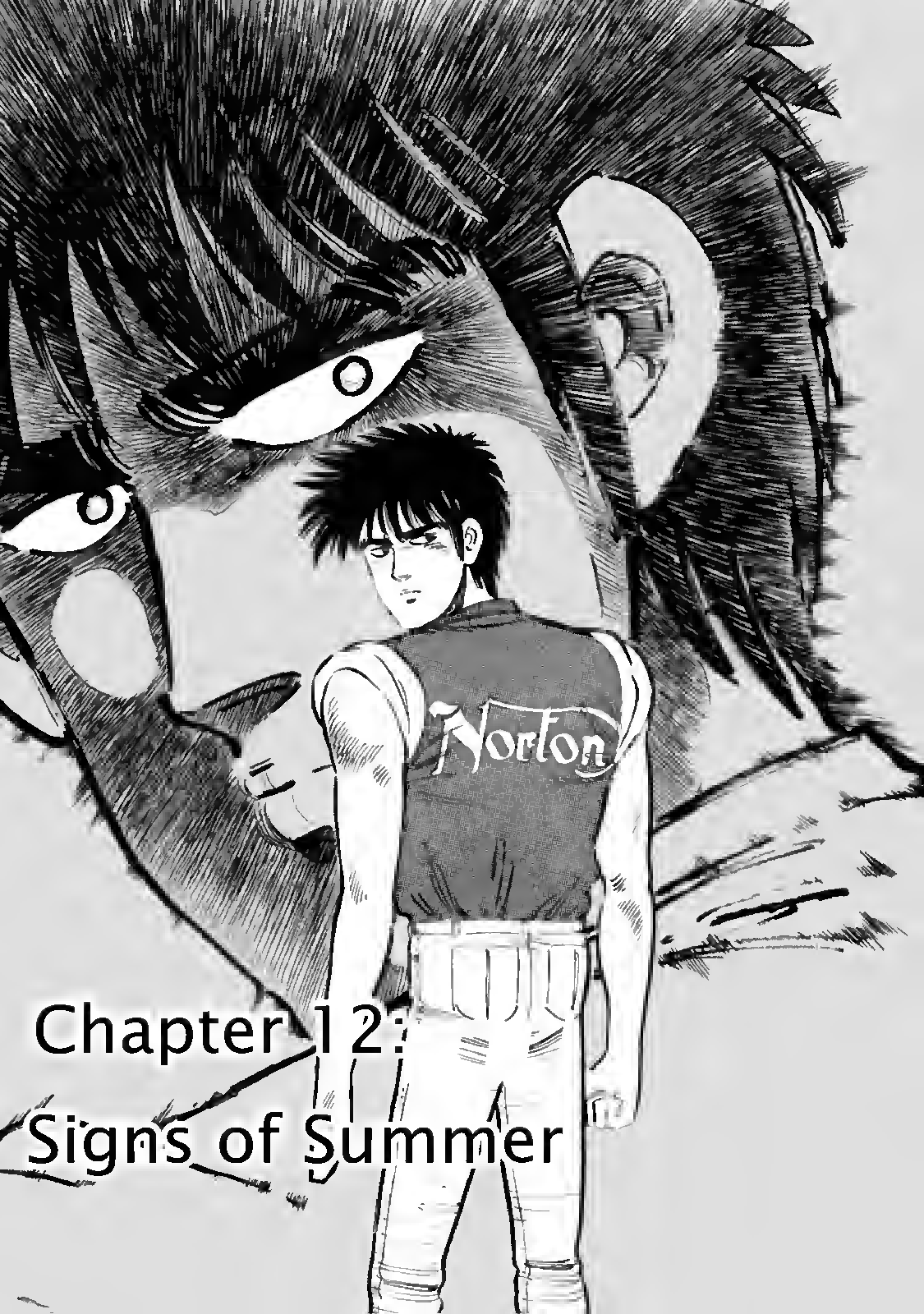

Run my way to the afterlife?


I didn't think so.
Can't run that far.
No thanks.

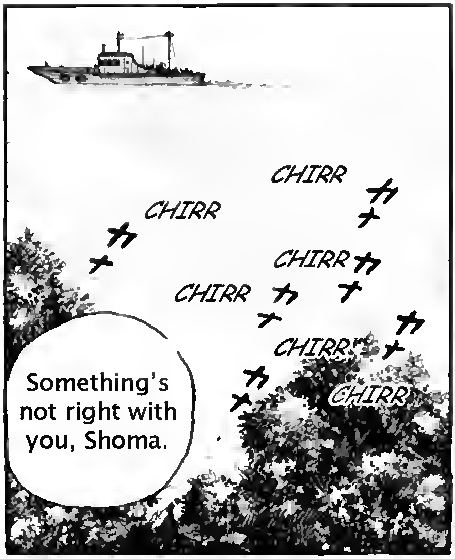


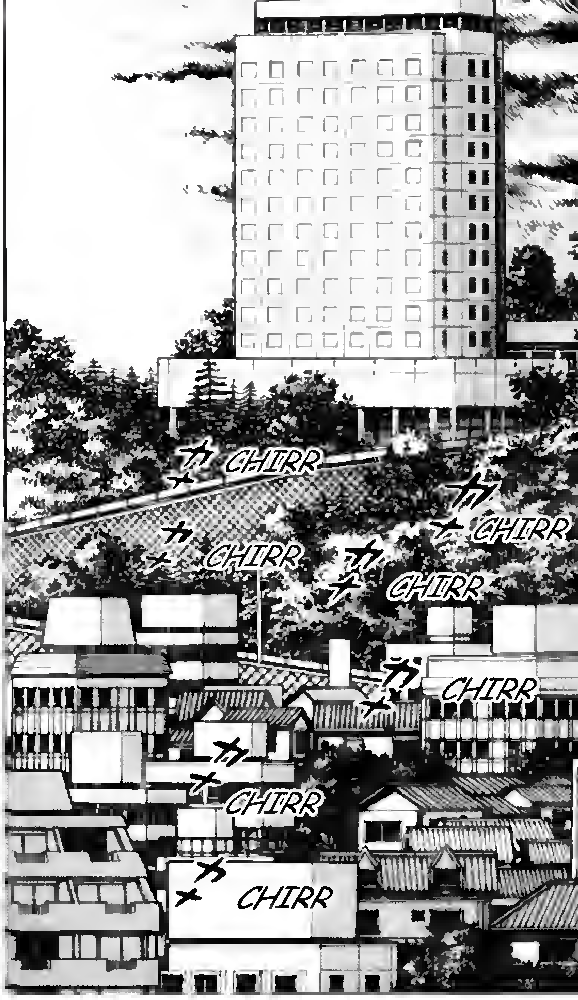
...

Sako...



Chapter 12: Signs of Summer


CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
Something's not right with you, Shoma.


CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR

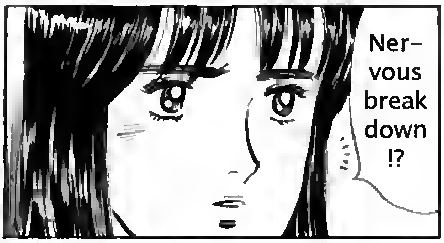
It's like your mind is somewhere else.

You've been awfully pale lately.
Are you feeling ill?

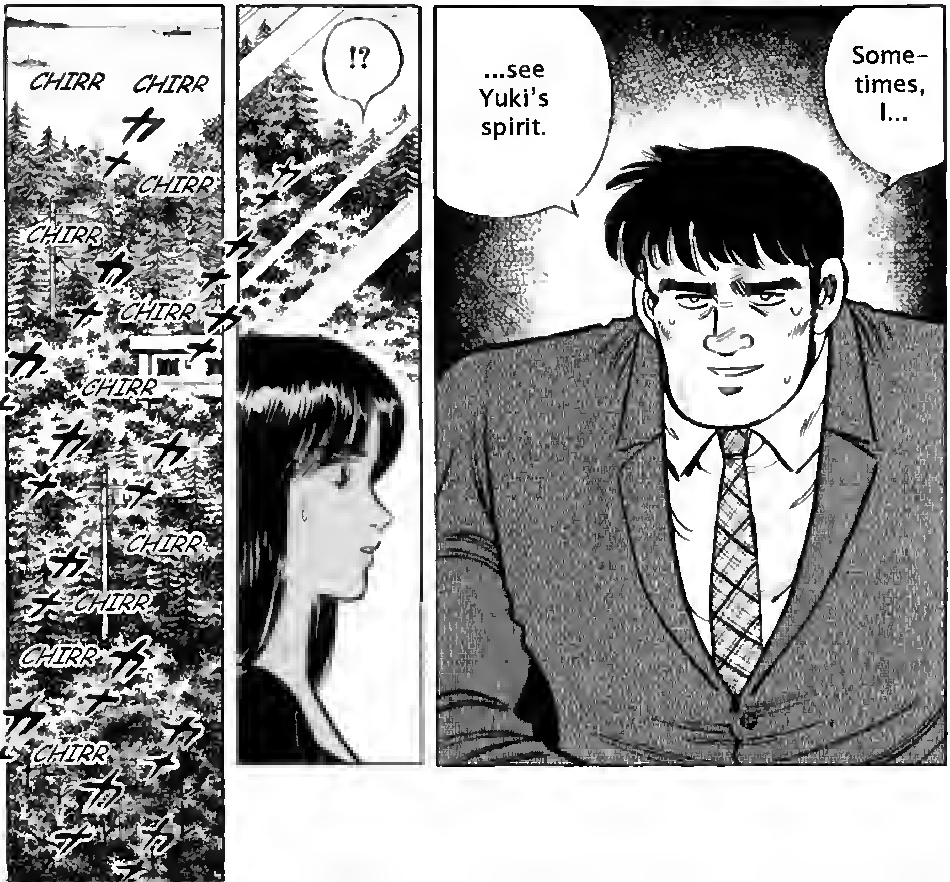
CHEW
むしゃ
むしゃ
CHEW
むしゃ
CHEW
...
I want to make love.
Make it quick.
Finish your food and we'll go upstairs. I've got our room reserved.
Still not listening to me, I see...
You haven't touched your food.
!?
Not tonight. I'm going home.
But why?
...

Be-
sides...
No, it's important.
Can't you put it off till tomor-row?
Sorry.
I have something to do.
I mean, you just aren't performing well.
PFFIT
...I don't want to stay.
You look really pale and you should get checked out.
Go to the hos-pital.
...you're like the old Shoma again.
Ever since Yuki's death...

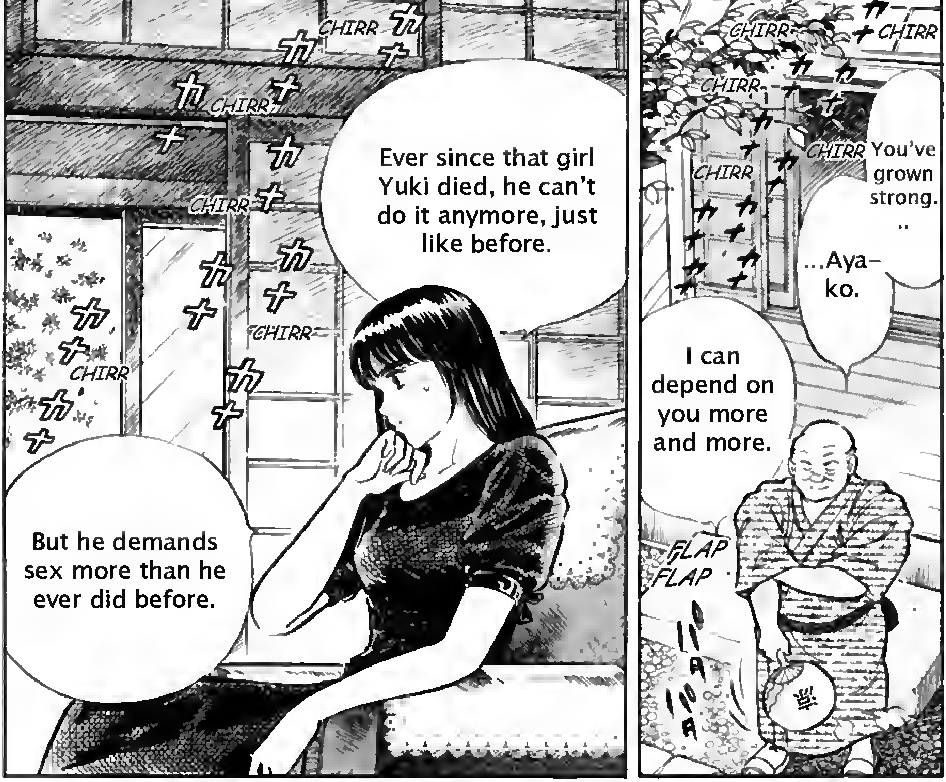
That I'm in relatively good shape.
Really!? What did they say?
I went already.
And got examined.

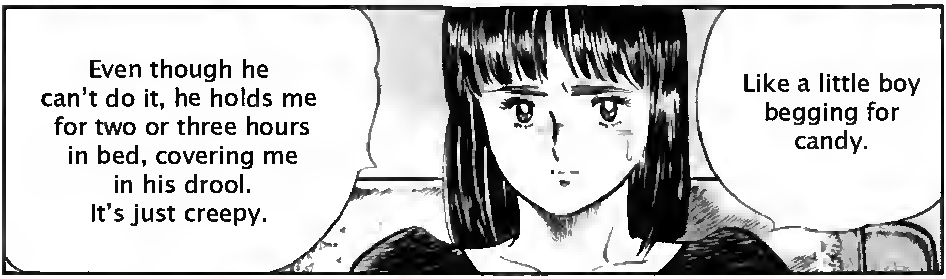

Ner-vous break down !?

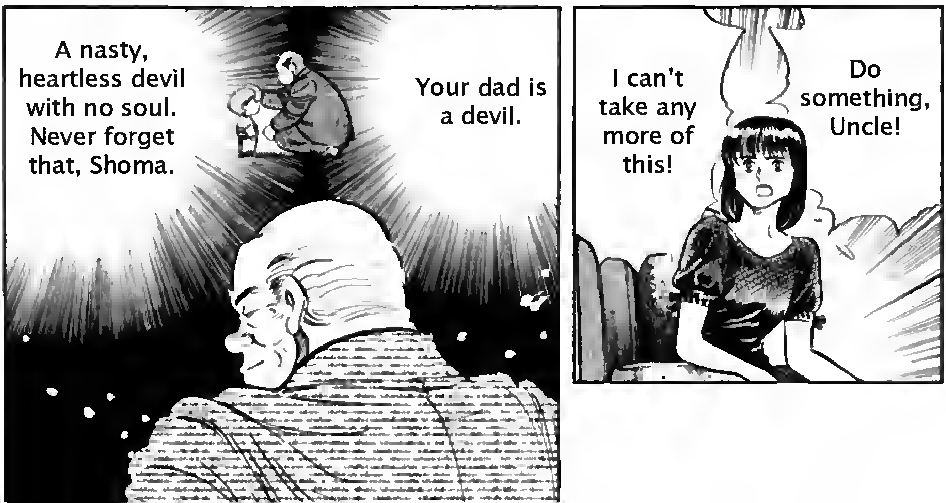
Except for a mild nervous breakdown.

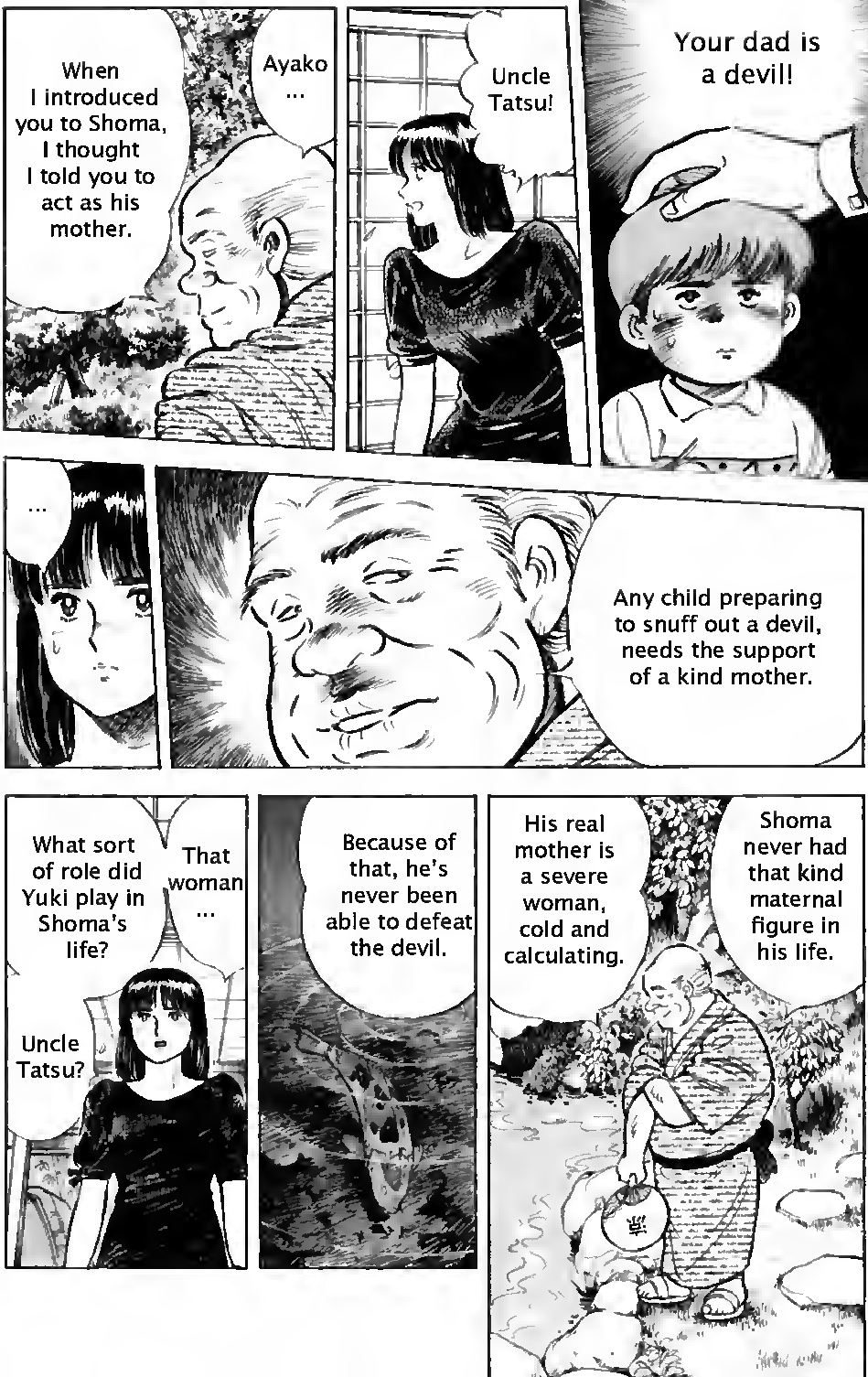

CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
!?
...see Yuki's spirit.
Some-times, I...

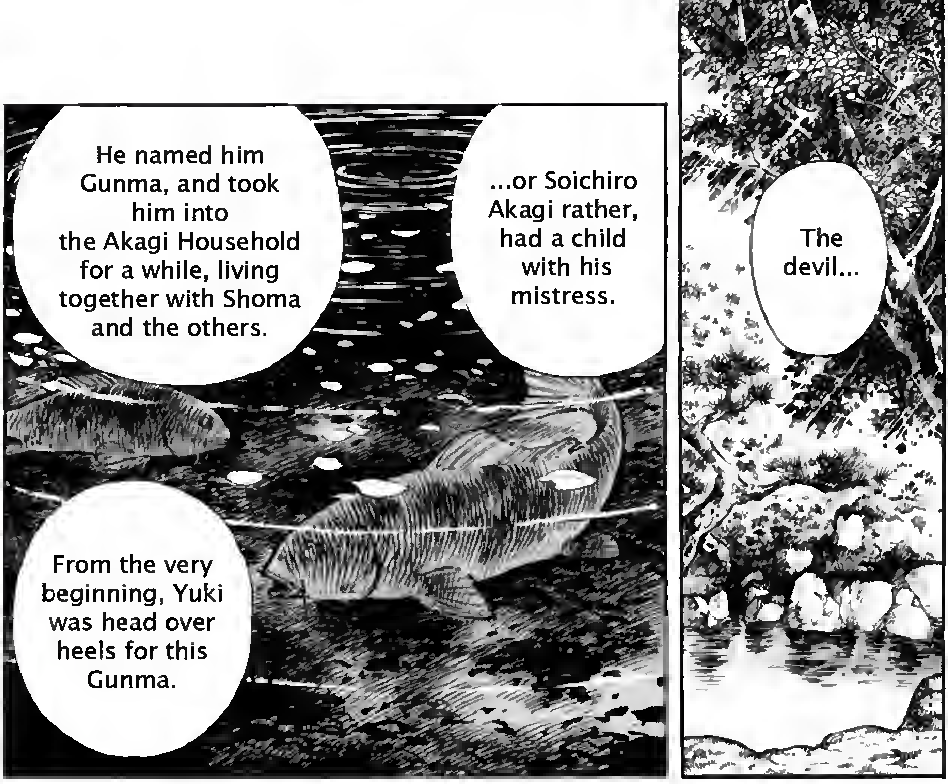
Very funny... It's just creepy.
Ha ha ha!
CHIRR
CHIRR
Yuki's spirit, huh?
Sounds chilling. Good way to beat the heat.
CHIRR
涼
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
I see.
CHIRR
I mean Shoma. He's creeping me out.
That's not it.
CHIRR
CHIRR
Still afraid of ghosts, Ayako? Heh heh...
CHIRR
CHIRR
涼
It gives me the chills.
One girl dies and he's gone out of his head.

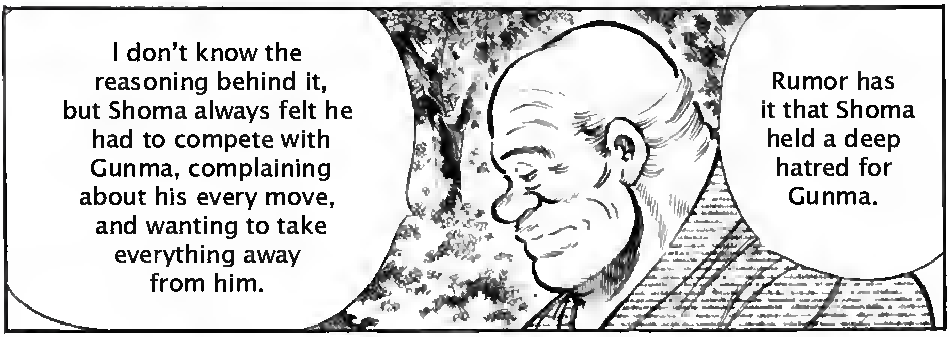

CHIRR
Ever since that girl Yuki died, he can't do it anymore, just like before.
But he demands sex more than he ever did before.
You've grown strong..
...Aya-ko.
I can depend on you more and more.
FLAP FLAP

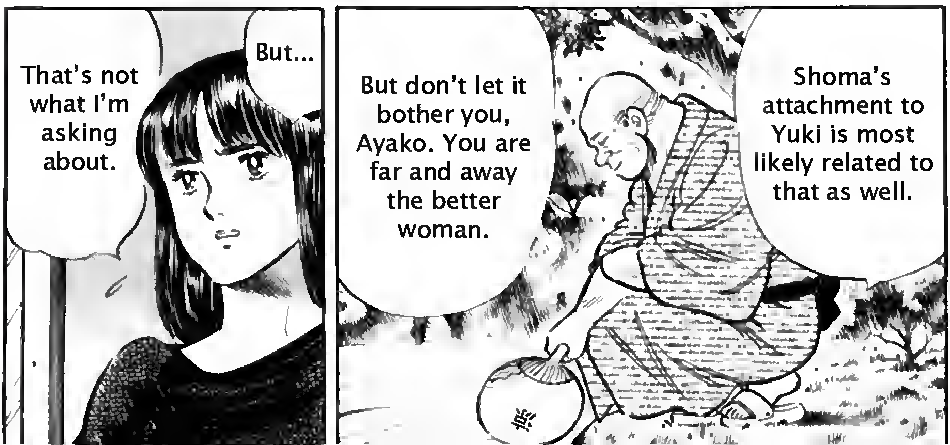

Even though he can't do it, he holds me for two or three hours in bed, covering me in his drool. It's just creepy.
Like a little boy begging for candy.


A nasty, heartless devil with no soul. Never forget that, Shoma.
Your dad is a devil.
I can't take any more of this!
Do something, Uncle!

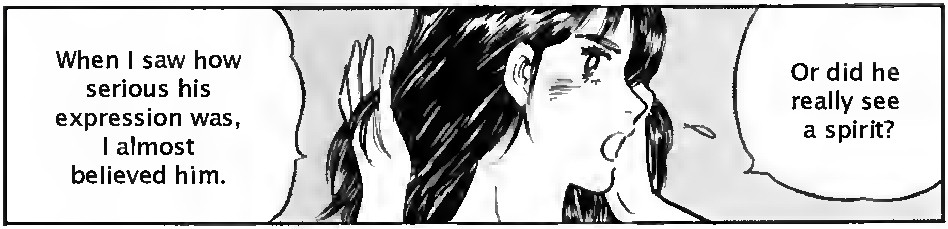

When I introduced you to Shoma, I thought I told you to act as his mother.
Ayako ...
Uncle Tatsu!
Your dad is a devil!
...
Any child preparing to snuff out a devil, needs the support of a kind mother.
What sort of role did Yuki play in Shoma's life?
That woman ...
Uncle Tatsu?
Because of that, he's never been able to defeat the devil.
His real mother is a severe woman, cold and calculating.
Shoma never had that kind maternal figure in his life.

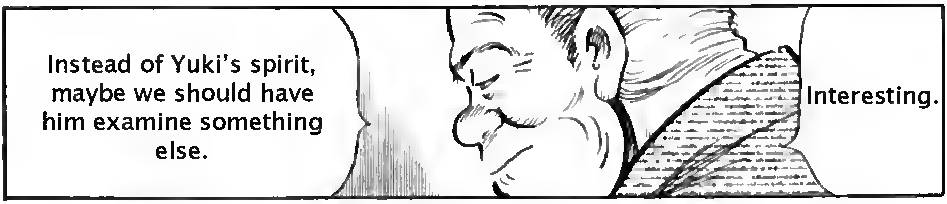

He named him Gunma, and took him into the Akagi Household for a while, living together with Shoma and the others.
...or Soichiro Akagi rather, had a child with his mistress.
From the very beginning, Yuki was head over heels for this Gunma.
The devil...


I don't know the reasoning behind it, but Shoma always felt he had to compete with Gunma, complaining about his every move, and wanting to take everything away from him.
Rumor has it that Shoma held a deep hatred for Gunma.


But...
That's not what I'm asking about.
But don't let it bother you, Ayako. You are far and away the better woman.
Shoma's attachment to Yuki is most likely related to that as well.

CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
With his crazy talk and everything.
I just don't know how to deal with Shoma.
He must be out of his mind.


When I saw how serious his expression was, I almost believed him.
Or did he really see a spirit?


Instead of Yuki's spirit, maybe we should have him examine something else.
Interesting.

CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
CHIRR
A ghost that's a bit more frighte-ning.

CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
Akagi Family
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
Yuki...
Still betraying me to the very end.
It's been six months since you left.
It's as if you're mocking me!
THUNK
And now I can't reach you!

...!?
RUSTLE
What are you doing here?
Ayako ...
Is this Yuki's grave?
She's buried underground and you still love her.
She must be so happy.
And it burns me.
I'm jealous.

Aya-
ko...
A...

Do it
now.
Take me,
Shoma! Right
here in front
of Yuki's
grave.
What
are you
doing!?
WOOSH

CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
No matter what...
Don't stop until I come...
CHIRREEE
Oh... Ayako... Ungh...
CHIRREEE
I'll make sure of that!
Yuki's watching us, I know it.
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
Ah ...
Ahh...
Shoma ...
Ayako...
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE

AHH!
OHHHH!
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
Huff
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE
CHIRREEE

How did you know I was here?
A man at your house told me.
You went to the house!?
Your father invited me, after all.
He did!?
Quite a long time ago, actually. He said I should come over to relax.
Then Dad knew about us all this time...
I guess so. You are the successor to Akagi Group, after all.

What a beauti-ful garden.
Not really. We've kind of let it go through the years.
Just a lot of brush now.
That gives it an air of wilderness that I like.
Mr. Fujino, let me be blunt.
What are your plans for my son?
Mr. Akagi ...
...that was my question for you actually.
...

It's about you and I...
...and our baby.
Excuse me?
I decided to come today...
...because I have an important announcement for your father.
!?
My daughter Ayako is carrying Shoma's child.

"F" Volume 12 THE END

F VOL.12

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